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MARANOA DISTRICT.

SOUTH WESTERN QUEENSLAND

First Edition 1916

COMPILED & ISSUED BY
THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT
INTELLIGENCE AND
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—THE—

Maranoa District

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Maranoa District

(South Western Queensland)

Its Wonderful Pastoral and Agricultural Resources, and its Illimitable Possibilities.

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Panoramic View of Roma, the "capital" of the Maranoa District.

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The Maranoa District

(South-Western Queensland.)

INTRODUCTION.

THE vastness of Queensland is difficult for even its people, let alone outsiders, to comprehend. Its total area is 429,120,000 acres, or, in other words, 670,500 square miles. And this vast tract of country is divided into three divisions—Northern, 158,425,600 acres; Central, 135,823,360 acres; and Southern, 134,871,040 acres. Then it is further divided up into fifteen pastoral districts, each of which cover a considerable area.

Eurombah Creek, Myall Downs Station, Roma District.

The Maranoa pastoral district, together with that tract of country to the north and west of Roma situated on the western slope of the Carnarvon Range, which is included in the electoral district of Maranoa, is the subject matter for this book. Within the pages of this publication will be found a concise, and,

withal, informative, description of the immense resources and unlimited possibilities of the Maranoa District. The statistical information has been obtained from official records, and the remainder of the data was collected by the Compiler during a recent tour through the District. With an area of 27,136,640 acres (42,401 square miles), the Maranoa District, though now chiefly used for pastoral purposes, bids fair to become the scene of extensive agricultural activities in the near future. The cutting up of the large pastoral holdings into smaller areas as grazing and agricultural farms is calculated to bring about the utilisation of the vast portions of productive country to their fullest advantage, and will also tend, as a natural sequence, to induce closer settlement. That there is room for a marked improvement in this respect at the present time is abundantly exemplified by the fact that there are only a little over two persons to every square mile of land within the Maranoa District. Such a district, so rich in natural resources and with such great possibilities awaiting development, should carry a population of, at least, 100,000. To-day the Maranoa District is the home of the Merino sheep, but the day is not far distant when large portions of the huge sheep walks will be converted into agricultural farms, whereon will be raised annually bountiful crops of wheat, maize, green fodder, and fruits. Abundant evidence is forthcoming, even under existing circumstances, that agriculture can be successfully carried on under normal meteorological conditions. Even a cursory study of the information published in this book in respect to the agrarian production of the district will convince readers as to the logic of the foregoing statements. Then, too, there is abundance of room for expansion so far as the dairying industry is concerned. The disintegration of the large sheep runs does not necessarily mean that the lessees will have to relinquish their occupations; far from it, but they will have to be content with smaller areas as is the case in other parts of the Commonwealth. Then, by subdividing their reduced holdings into paddocks, the pastoralists would be able to carry equally as many, if not more, sheep to the acre than they do at present. In point of fact, it is contended by authorities on the matter that the carrying capacities of the country would be considerably increased if such a state of affairs were brought about generally in Queensland. The Darling Downs is a case in point of what

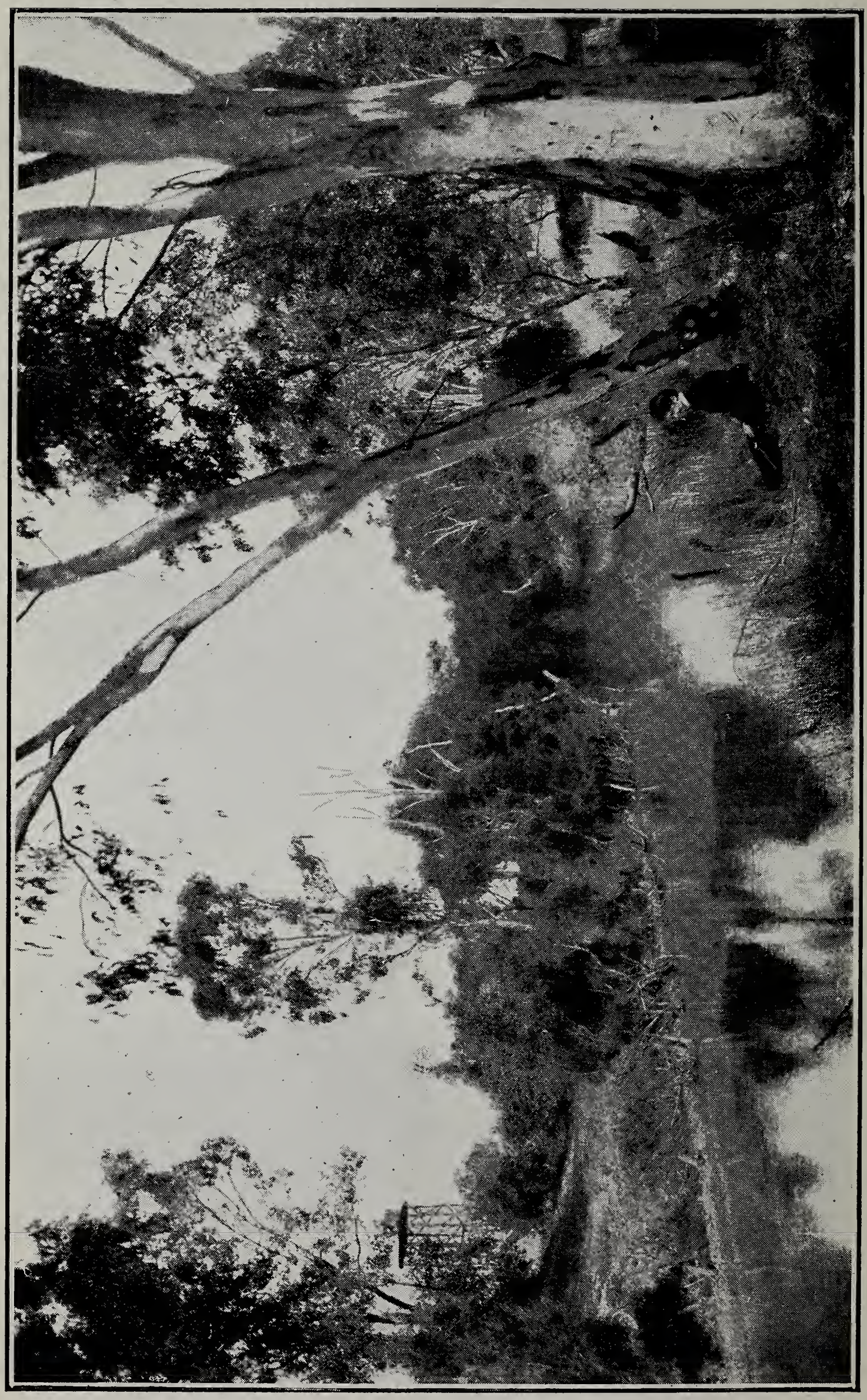
can be done by means of close settlement. To-day, comparatively speaking, it is carrying the same number of sheep on smaller holdings as it did thirty-four years ago on considerably larger runs. Furthermore, the Darling Downs, to-day, is a very prosperous agricultural and dairying district. Similar possibilities exist in the Maranoa District, as the soil is not one whit less productive than the Darling Downs.

The breeding of beef cattle and horses also occupies much attention in the Maranoa District, many of the cattle runs carrying a large number of stock.

Crossing the Great Dividing Range on the road to Mount Hutton Station, Roma District.

The great stand-by of the Maranoa District is its inexhaustible supply of water, which is obtained from artesian and sub-artesian bores. Every town and pastoral holding has one or more of these bores, and by this means the domestic requirements of the people in the towns and on the stations are adequately supplied. The district is also well watered by a number of permanent rivers, creeks, and lagoons.

The existence of petroleum and natural gas in Roma, "the capital" of the Maranoa District, strengthens the assumption of experts that this town is likely to figure prominently in the commercial world at an early date. Boring operations are now



Delightful Spot on Bungeworgorai Creek, Mount Abundance Station, Roma.

being carried on by the Government in order to adequately test the extent of the sources of the petroleum oil and natural gas. Naturally, keen interest is being evinced in the tests, not only by the people of Roma, but of the Commonwealth generally.

Though not recognised as a mineral area, the Maranoa District has more than ordinary claims in this direction for consideration by the investor. Coal seams exist in many localities, and there are also large deposits of asbestos in the Mitchell district; while in the Roma district there are extensive quarries of sandstone suitable for building purposes.

Among the numerous varieties of timber found in the district, a number of these are of much commercial value. Softwoods and hardwoods, suitable for building purposes, are obtainable in fairly large quantities, and there are many other timbers which lend themselves admirably for the manufacture of furniture, &c.

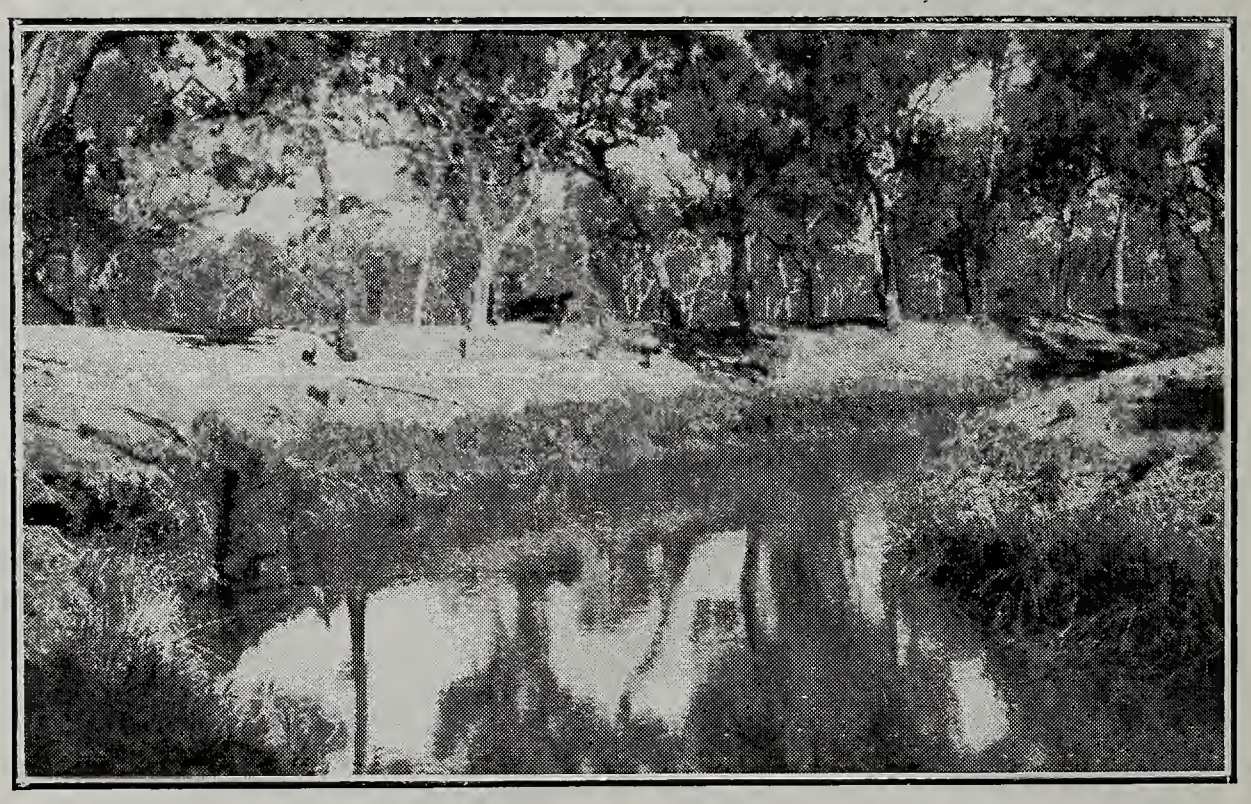
Climatically, the Maranoa District is one of the healthiest portions of the State of Queensland. This is demonstrated by the fact that the annual death-rate is infinitesimal, while the birth-rate is, on the other hand, exceptionally satisfactory. Despite that the weather is somewhat sultry during the summer months, it is a dry, healthy atmosphere, and cases of sunstroke are of rare occurrence. Ideal conditions prevail during the winter and spring seasons. In winter the nights and mornings are delightfully crisp, and the rarified air has a rejuvenating effect upon those affected with chest complaints. In point of fact, fairly large numbers of people from the southern States of the Commonwealth periodically visit different portions of the district in order to recuperate their health. That the conditions are decidedly healthy, is evidenced by the longevity of quite a number of the residents. There are many men and women in the district bordering on 90 years of age still hale and hearty, and able to do a hard day's work.

During the summer months the maximum shade temperature throughout the District is 92 degrees, the minimum is 66 degrees, and mean temperature is 79 degrees. In the winter the maximum temperature is 68 degrees, the minimum is 37 degrees, and the mean temperature is 52 degrees.

Like other portions of Queensland, the Maranoa District wants more people to fully develop its wonderful resources. According to an approximate estimate, the population of the district in 1914 was only 19,187. As has already been stated on a preceding page, there is room in the District for, at least, 100,000.

RAINFALL.

Under normal meteorological conditions, the Maranoa District is well provided for so far as the annual rainfall is concerned. A study of the appended table will show that the rainfall, too, is fairly well distributed over the extensive tract of country comprised within the District under review. The most remarkable feature about these western lands is the rapid



Eurombah Creek, Myall Downs Station, Roma District.

manner in which it responds after a good downpour of rain, and the face of Nature, once brown and cheerless, is soon clothed with a thick mantle of verdure. This is particularly noticeable about the light chocolate soil country. In good seasons the rolling downs country is covered by a number of natural grasses, and it is not at all strange that visitors should mistake fields of Mitchell grass for wheat in the distance. Though the Maranoa District occasionally suffers from protracted dry spells, still conditions generally for a number of

years past have been very prosperous—so much so, indeed, that grazing farmers, who started a few years ago with a limited amount of capital, are now in very comfortable circumstances.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE ANNUAL AND AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALLS AT VARIOUS STATIONS IN THE MARANOA DISTRICT, SOUTH-WESTERN QUEENSLAND, AS SUPPLIED BY THE COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY:—

Stations.	Annual—1914.	Average Annual to End of 1914.	Number of Years' Record.
Towns.	Inches.	Inches.	
Roma	21·69	24·69	41
Wallumbilla	26·91	22·95	17
Yeulba	21·05	26·71	31
Surat	30·30	24·27	34
St. George	18·48	21·36	34
Thallon	25·57	..	2
Dirranbandi	18·67	19·52	26
Muckadilla	19·65	23·20	24
Amby	18·80	23·33	14
Mitchell	25·15	24·71	31
Mungallala	21·95	..	2
Morven	19·48	21·75	28
Bollon	19·79	18·81	29
Pastoral Holdings.			
Forest Vale (Mitchell District) ..	26·58	24·88	30
Crystal Brook do.	19·88	23·01	20
Merivale do.	..	*24·29	14
Redford do.	..	*23·73	18
Warrong do.	20·24	..	..
Westgrove do.	22·28	27·82	24
Womblebank do.	27·92	22·83	17
Bonus Downs do.	17·88	..	2
Mount Hutton (Roma District) ..	§41·17	27·10	..
Mount Abundance do.	23·22	22·53	16
Lauriston do.	23·44	..	2
Orallo do.	§25·00	..	..
Eurella (Muckadilla District) ..	22·85	22·44	33
Bindango do.	..	*22·42	15
Weribone (Surat District)	20·37	22·35	16
Warroo (Surat-St. George Road)	..	*26·48	25
Doondi (St. George District) ..	..	†18·26	11
Whyenbah do	..	¶15·60	8
Cubbie (Dirranbandi District) ..	15·27	15·73	17
Woolerina do.	..	‡17·17	23
Woodlands (Maranoa River, Mitchell St. George Road)	33·94	35·92	30

* Records to 1912. † to 1909. ¶ to 1904. ‡ to 1906. § Unofficial.

PHYSICAL FEATURES.

The following is a brief description of the boundaries of the Maranoa District:—

The northern boundary commences at Mount Sugarloaf in the Great Dividing Range (slightly to the west of the 148th

parallel of longitude), thence south-easterly along the Great Dividing Range until it junctions with the Carnarvon Range (the watershed of the Dawson River); thence continuing in a south-easterly direction to Pyramid Hill in the last-named Range. The eastern boundary commences from this point, and proceeds in a south-easterly direction until the 149th parallel of longitude and the 26th parallel of latitude are crossed. Then a slightly south-western course is taken until the Great Dividing Range is again reached near Mount Combabula; thence easterly along the Great Dividing Range for about 12 miles; thence south

Town Reach, Balonne River, St. George.

to south-westerly to the east of Yeulba; thence south-easterly along to the west of Channing Creek until the 27th parallel of latitude is crossed; thence south-westerly along the banks of Dogwood Creek, and crossing the confluence of Dogwood Creek, Condamine River, Balonne River, and Murilla Creek. Proceeding south-westward the boundary passes the country watered by Stockyard, Esk, Coolibah, Dilga, Currajong, Teeto, Black's Camp, and Tealba Creeks. Slightly to the northward of the 28th parallel of latitude the Moonie River is crossed. Continuing slightly south-westward by a line to the west of the township of Talwood. Thence south-easterly, and crossing Warrill Creek; and thence south-westerly along the Barwon River to the west of the town of Mungindi on the Southern border at the 149th

parallel of longitude. The southern boundary commences at this last-named point, and proceeds due west along the borders of Queensland and New South Wales to within about 16 miles east of the 146th parallel of longitude. The western boundary commences at this last-named point, and proceeds slightly north-easterly by a line until a short distance south of Widgee-goara Station; then branches off westerly for a short distance; thence slightly north-easterly by a line; thence slightly north-westerly to the eastward of Charlotte Plains Station; and thence

Panorama of Mount Hutton Homestead, Roma District.

by a line in a slightly north-easterly direction past the 28th and 27th parallels of latitude respectively. The boundary line then diverges westward, and then north-easterly for short distances; then slightly south-easterly, then north-easterly again, then due east, then north-easterly, and crosses the 147th parallel of longitude. Thence north-easterly by the Morven Range (the watershed of the Maranoa River) to the point of commencement in the Great Dividing Range at Mount Sugarloaf.

The boundaries of the Maranoa District are clearly defined on the map appearing in this book, and which faces page 108.

Study in Shadows on Bungeworgorai Creek, Mount Abundance Station, Roma.

RIVERS, LAKES, &c.

The Maranoa District is well provided for in respect to rivers and other watercourses. A number of these are of a permanent nature even during protracted dry spells. The most important stream in the District is the Balonne River, which is 175 miles in length. This river is a continuation of the Condamine River, which rises in the hills in the Killarney district (Darling Downs). The Condamine takes the name of the Balonne when it crosses the eastern boundary line of the Maranoa District to the south of Warkon Station, in the Surat district. It then flows east, and then south-westerly through the towns of Surat, St. George, and Dirranbandi until the borders of Queensland and New South Wales are reached, when the Balonne becomes the Culgoa. At Dirranbandi there are three tributaries of this fine stream known by the names of the Ballandool River (40 miles in length), Bokhara River (32 miles), and Narran River (32 miles), each of which flows into New South Wales. Though primarily fed by the Condamine, the Balonne is also fed by Yeulba, Murilla, Wallumbilla, Blyth, Bungil, Bungeworgorai, Yalebone, Weribone, Coogoon, Muckadilla, Ballaroo, Tartulla, and Nebine Creeks, and the Maranoa River. From its sources to its entry into New South Wales, the Balonne drains 47,923 square miles of country. At St. George and in the Dirranbandi district, the Balonne is a very fine stream. The Moonie River, which drains an area of 15,232 square miles of territory, has its source in the Dalby-Tara district on the divide of the Condamine waters. It is fed by Toombilla, Parrie, Moolan, Wongle Wongle, Bardwell, Kinabilla, Teelba, and Thomby Creeks as it runs its south-westerly course to the Queensland-New South Wales border, where it joins the Barwon. The rising town of Thallon is on its banks. The Moonie is 215 miles in length, and is a splendid stream in places. The Maranoa River rises in the Great Dividing Range near Mount Moffatt, and during its southerly course of 275 miles is fed by Whannell and Bundora Creeks, Merivale River, and Smith, Appletree, Mannanbilla, Basalt, Womalilla, Oolandilla, and Amby Creeks. Near St. George, the Maranoa, which drains about 12,000 square miles of country, joins the Balonne. In different localities, through

which this stream passes, there are good stretches of permanent water. The Merivale River has its source in the Great Dividing Range at Mount Moffatt, and is fed by Whannell, Bundora, and Smith Creeks, and after flowing for 96 miles joins the Maranoa River near Forest Vale Station, in the Mitchell district. Like the Maranoa River, there are a number

Bungeworgorai Creek, Mount Abundance Station, Roma.

of good reaches of permanent water in the Merivale River. Bungil Creek, which rises in the Great Dividing Range near Mount Eumamurrin, flows through the town of Roma, and eventually joins the Balonne River at Surat. This watercourse is fed by Mooga Mooga, Bungeworgorai, and Blyth Creeks, and is 92 miles in length. Bungeworgorai Creek also rises in the Great Dividing Range to the north-east of Orallo, and wends its course through Roma until it junctions with Bungil Creek about 20 miles south of Roma. Mungallala Creek takes its source from Mount McGrath in the Morven Range, to the east of Mount Pleasant Station, and passes through the township of Mungallala in a slightly south-westerly direction for about 180 miles, until it finally disappears a short distance from the

Queensland-New South Wales border. Fed by Borer, Dulbydilla, Armadilla, Western, Durella, Tullundunna, and other smaller creeks, this stream drains a considerable area of country during its course. Wallam Creek has its source in a spur dividing the waters of Mungallala Creek and the Maranoa River near Tullundunna Station, and then flows in a southerly direction for about 130 miles, finally disappearing near the southern border. It is fed by a number of small creeks, the principal ones being Burgunyah, Stony, and Neabul. Nebine Creek rises near Ularunda Station, in a slight elevation, which divides the waters of the Warrego River, and is fed by a number of smaller streams, including Little and Paterson Creeks. It flows in a southerly direction for 150 miles, and then joins the Culgoa River on the New South Wales side of the border. In the Mount Hutton, Bymont, and Cornwall districts, on the western slope of the Carnarvon Range, and the eastern slope of the Great Dividing Range, there are many permanent creeks of good size. These include:—Hutton, Injune, Highland Plains, and Eurombah Creeks. There are also a number of large mud springs in the Mount Hutton district.

Dingo and Yarara are the most important freshwater lakes in the Maranoa District. The former is near Clifton Station, and the latter to the north-west of Cashmere Station. There is also a salt lake to the south-east of Mulga Downs. In addition to the foregoing, there are numerous large permanent lagoons in different portions of the Maranoa District, particularly around Surat and St. George.

MOUNTAINS, &c.

Though the country in the Maranoa District consists principally of vast stretches of rolling downs, there are a number of ranges, mountains, and hills of more or less considerable altitude dotted about the confines of its territory. On the north and north-east there are the Great Dividing and Carnarvon Ranges, and on the north-west the locally named Morven Range —a spur from the Great Dividing Range. Each of these ranges form the watershed for a great many of the streams within and without the Maranoa District. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that the Carnarvon Range is the watershed for the Dawson River—one of the principal feeders to the Fitzroy River (Central

Queensland). The highest elevations in the Great Dividing Range are:—Mounts Sugarloaf, Rugged, Tabletop, Hooker, Hutton, and Combabula; and in the Carnarvon Range, Pyramid Hill is the most conspicuous. On the western spur of the Great Dividing Range there are Mounts Campbell, Punch, Judy, Misery, Cliff, Owen, Elliott, and McGrath. Scattered about the northern portion of the District, and, standing out like grim sentinels, are Mounts Moffatt, Eden, McLeay, Ogilvie, and Eddystone. Then, to the northward of Mungallala, there are Mounts Kennedy, Pleasant, Scott, Polworth, and Lonsdale. In the Mount Hutton district there are Table Mountain, the Candlesticks, the Lighthouse, and Mount Eumamurrin. In and around Roma are

Muckadilla Hotel, Muckadilla; the State Thermal Baths and Resthouse are at the rear.

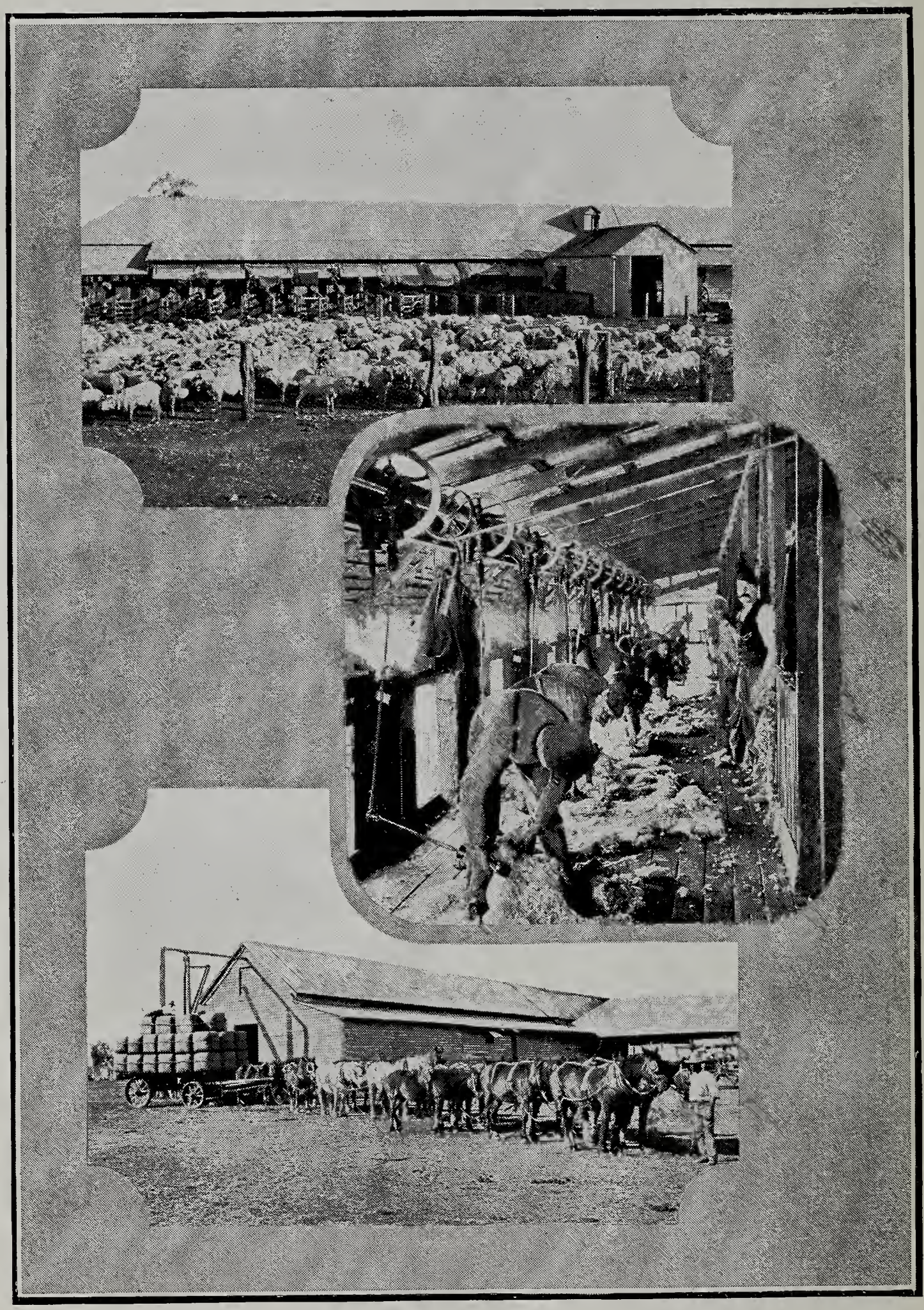
to be seen the Grafton Range, and Mounts Bassett and Beagle. Mounts Abundance, Muttaby, Bindeygo, and Bindango are close to Muckadilla, and Mount Walparana, Dinnebarraba Hill, Thomby Range, Mounts Weribone and Yamerra (both in the last-named range) are in the Surat district. Mounts Vernon and Annie are in the Bollon district, and the Maranoa and Tannaby Ranges are in the Mitchell district. Many of the peaks in the different ranges are unique in formation. Speaking generally, the composition of the various mountains is of basalt, slates, granite, trachyte, sandstone, or serpentine. The peaks in the Great Dividing Range and Carnarvon Range vary from 2,000 feet to 4,000 feet.

HEALTH AND TOURIST RESORTS.

As a health and tourist resort, the Maranoa District possesses many attractions. The salubrious climate, both in summer and winter, has an invigorating effect upon invalids, particularly those affected with chest troubles. Further, the water from the artesian bores in several districts has curative properties for rheumatism. In this respect, the Muckadilla bore, distant 26 miles by rail from Roma, and 344 miles by rail from Brisbane, has earned world-wide renown. Hundreds of people have been cured or relieved from the racking pains of rheumatism, sciatica, chronic indigestion, and gout after undergoing

Murray Cod, caught in Balonne River, St. George; total weight, 187 *lb.*

treatment at the Government Thermal Baths at Muckadilla. Years ago victims to the aforementioned maladies underwent the "cure" in an open mud-bath at the artesian bore. To-day, there are properly fitted up shower and plunge baths, and a comfortably appointed resthouse, with a qualified nurse in charge. The temperature of the water in the baths is properly regulated to suit each case, and sweating blankets are also



Shearing Scenes on Mount Abundance Station, Roma.

provided. The average temperature of the water is 124 degrees Fahrenheit. There is ample accommodation in the baths for ladies and gentlemen, special apartments being set aside for each. The soft, velvety feeling of the thermal water has a delightfully refreshing effect upon the bather. That the Muckadilla "hydro" is widely known is exemplified by the fact that invalids and others crippled with rheumatism, &c., come from all parts of the Commonwealth in order to undergo the "cure," and the hundreds of testimonials in the possession of the Railway Department (which controls the baths) furnish indisputable evidence that it is a cure in every sense of the word. The bore has a depth of 3,762 feet, and a daily flow of 23,000 gallons. The water is radio-active, and each gallon contains 3 grains of silica, 3½ grains of calcium carbonate, 1½ grains of magnesium carbonate, 16 grains of sodium carbonate, 7 grains of sodium chloride, 1½ grains of sodium sulphate, ½ grain of iron, and odor H.2S. First-class hotel accommodation is obtainable in the township of Muckadilla; in fact, the hotel, and also a comfortable boardinghouse, are quite close to the baths and resthouse. There is a regular train service between Brisbane and Muckadilla, and, of course, the capitals of the other States of the Commonwealth. The first-class single fares are:—From Brisbane, £2 8s. 11d.; from Sydney, £4 8s. 3d.; from Melbourne, £7 11s. 3d.; and from Adelaide, £9 7s. Special reduced fares are available during the holiday season.

The artesian water in the public baths at Roma, Mitchell, and St. George is also claimed to have curative properties for rheumatism, &c.

All the streams in the Maranoa District teem with freshwater fish—Murray cod, dew, perch, bream, eels; while in Hutton and Highland Plains Creeks barramundi are caught in large numbers. The last-named creeks, it may be mentioned, are in the watershed of the Dawson River, hence the presence of barramundi. The platypus (or spoonbill), a rare furry aquatic mammal, is also found in several of the creeks in the Mount Hutton district, particularly in Eurombah Creek. The Balonne River, more especially about St. George and Surat, is a splendid fishing ground.

Feathered game are also plentiful. These include:—Black swans, ducks, geese, plain turkeys, ibis, pigeons, &c. There are

many other species of bird life found in the scrubs and on the plains, the most conspicuous of these being emus, native companions (or brolgas), galahs, parrots, cockatoos, happy family, &c. In the animal world the kangaroo, wallaby, and the smaller members of the mammalian family provide good sport for huntsmen and shooters. Foxes are also to be found in the Mitchell district.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTRY.

The Maranoa District is divided into three Land Agent's districts—Roma, Surat, and St. George. The Roma district comprises the subdistricts of Mitchell and Yeulba. It is watered by the Balonne, Maranoa, and Merivale Rivers, and Hutton, Eurombah, Highland Plains, Injune, Bungil, Bungeworgorai,

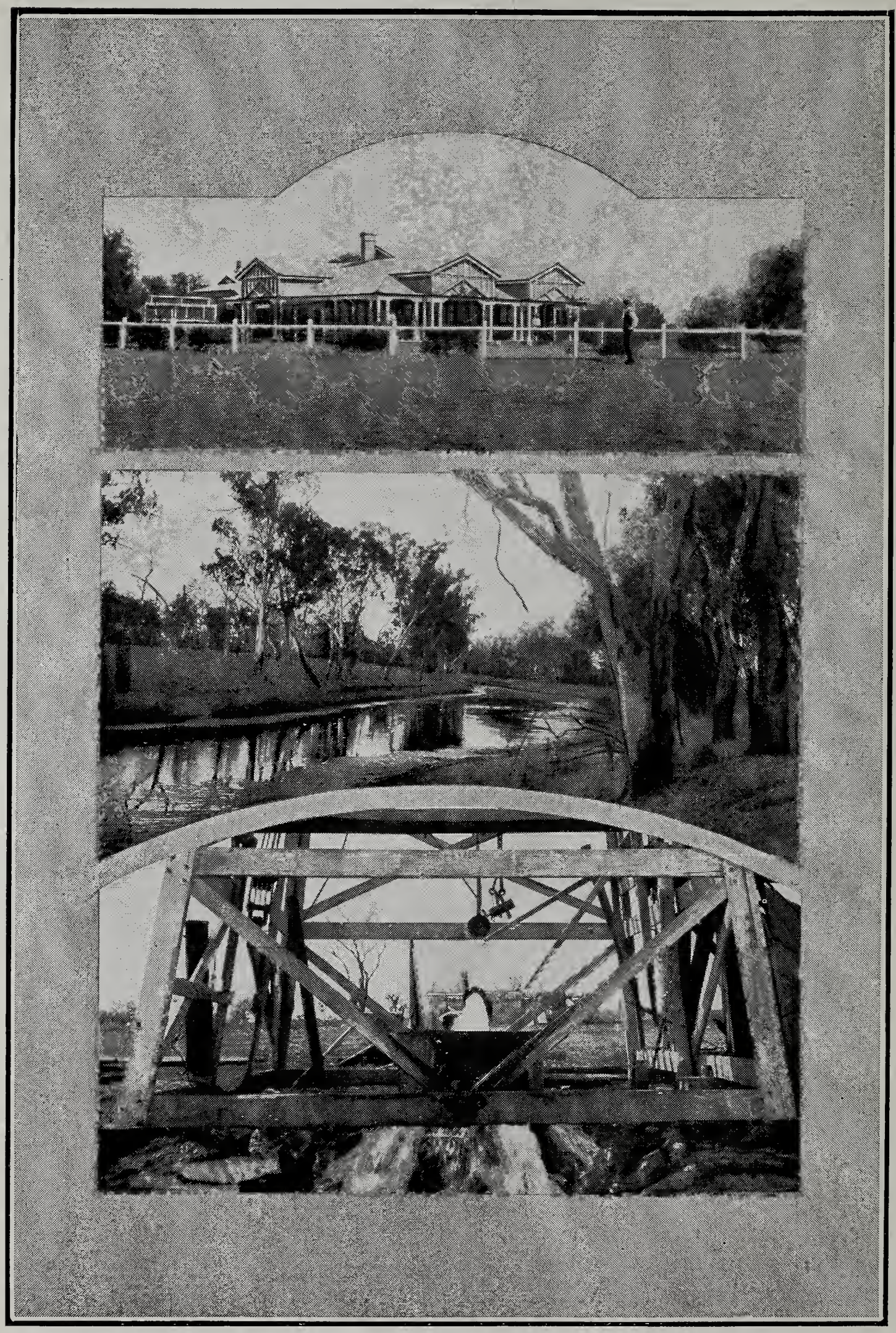
Beef Shorthorns near Lagoon, Thuraggi Station, St. George.

Wallumbilla, Blyth, Muckadilla, Amby, Mungallala, and numerous other creeks. The soils are varied, and of good depth and great richness. These consist of heavy black, red chocolate, light sandy loam, and red sandy loam. The black and chocolate soils are admirably suitable for agricultural purposes, and hold moisture for a considerable time under dry conditions. Around

Roma, Mitchell, Blythdale, Wallumbilla, and Yeulba there are large areas of loamy soil in close proximity to the railway line being utilised for agricultural purposes. Wheat and vines are the principal crops raised, both of which amply repay the agriculturist for his labours. In point of fact, Roma has earned considerable prominence in Queensland because of the excellence of its grapes and vines. Every year witnesses an expansion in the wheat-growing industry. There is one large flour mill in the district—and that is at Roma. Under normal conditions maize can be successfully cultivated. Fruits and vegetables of

Lagoon on Minimi Station, St. George.

all kinds do well, more particularly in places where they are raised by means of irrigation. Among the fruits which can be, and are in many instances, grown successfully, are:—Grapes, citrus, peaches, plums, figs, olives, persimmons, dates, &c. The State Farm at Bungeworgorai, a few miles from Roma, affords intending settlers a practical illustration of what can be cultivated in the district. The greater portion of the country, however, is devoted to the raising of sheep, cattle, and horses, and quite a number of the stations cover large areas. The soil on a number of these large runs is eminently adapted for agricultural purposes, particularly mixed farming. Several of these holdings are now being resumed by the Government, and cut up into smaller areas in order to promote closer settlement.



Three Surat Scenes.
1. *Noorindoo Homestead.* 2. *Black Swans on Noorindoo Creek.*
3. *No.* 3 *Artesian Bore on Noorindoo Station.*

Most of the pastoral holdings are well watered, by natural watercourses, and artesian and subartesian bores. The principal towns in this Land Agent's district are:—Roma, Mitchell, Yeulba, and Wallumbilla, all of which are thriving communities. There are several sawmills and one butter factory. Coal, asbestos, and sandstone (for building purposes) are known to exist in fairly large quantities, but up to the present the possibilities in the mineralogical direction have not been developed. The existence of natural gas and petroleum in Roma opens up great prospects for the future prosperity of not only the Maranoa District, but Queensland and the Commonwealth of Australia generally. The developmental tests now being carried out by the Government are, naturally, being watched with much interest. All the principal centres are served by direct railway communication with Brisbane, the capital of Queensland. The average annual rainfall for the district is over 24 inches. In places the district is densely timbered with cypress pine, box, belah, brigalow, sandalwood, myall, bloodwood, ironbark, eucalypti, &c., and in some localities bottle trees. There are large areas of rolling downs, and a portion of the open forest country is badly affected with prickly-pear. Among the natural curiosities in this district are thousands of water-worn spherical sandstones on the banks of Eurombah Creek (Mount Hutton district), and also petrified wood, mussel shells embedded in sandstone, and small sea shells in large beds of sand. The assumption is that this portion of the country was a sea thousands of years ago.

The Surat Land Agent's district is to the south of the Roma district. The soils are similar to those in the last-named district, and will produce all kinds of crops—wheat, maize, oats, lucerne, green fodder, fruits, and vegetables. Many of the station-owners cultivate wheat for hay every year, and in several instances for grain as well. Favoured with anything like fair meteorological conditions, this district is destined to become a large wheat and fruit-growing centre in the near future. No doubt, when railway communication is established, a decided stimulus will be infused into agricultural pursuits. At present many of the settlers are profitably engaged in fruit culture and market gardening. The crops are chiefly raised by means of irrigation. The permanent water in the Balonne River lends

itself admirably in this connection. The pastoral industry claims most attention, and sheep are bred on a large scale. Cattle and horses are also bred by several of the pastoralists. A number of the stations are extensive in area, and are watered by artesian and subartesian bores, and, in some cases, by the Balonne River and various creeks and large lagoons. In this district, too, oyster and mussel shells have been found embedded in solid mounds of basalt. Though much of the country is rolling downs, carrying an abundant supply of Mitchell and other grasses in good seasons, there is also a large area of open forest and scrub lands. The timbers comprise:—Cypress pine, eucalyptus, tarbeen, ironbark, sandalwood, box, red gum, currajong, myall, belah, wilga, mulga, brigalow, myrtle, bauhinia, &c. The sawmill at Surat operates on the cypress pine and hardwoods chiefly, and these are used for building purposes. The average annual rainfall for the district is over 24 inches. In places there are dense patches of prickly-pear, particularly in the open forest country. The nearest railway line to Surat is at Yeulba, a distance of 47 miles, and the only means for the general public to reach there is by a regular coach service. Travellers to St. George must also avail themselves of the horse coach.

The St. George Land Agent's district occupies the south-eastern portion of the Maranoa District. The country is mostly flat, or slightly undulating, with low, gradually-rising watersheds, running parallel with the main streams, in places. It is also more or less thickly timbered with cypress pine, bloodwood, bendee, forest oak, sandalwood, wilga, belah, brigalow, tarbeen, box, mulga, gidya, and eucalyptus, with appletrees and coolibahs on the river flats. Scattered about the district are patches of more or less dense prickly-pear. The district is exceptionally well watered by natural streams, lagoons, and artesian and subartesian bores. The principal streams which flow through the district are the Balonne, Maranoa, and Moonie Rivers, and Wallam, Mungallala, and Nebine Creeks. The chief centres of settlement are at St. George, Thallon, Dirranbandi, and Bollon. St. George, with its avenues of shade trees in the principal streets, and with the Balonne River on the frontage of the main thoroughfare, is one of the most picturesque provincial towns in the Commonwealth. Sheep breeding is carried on most

extensively, and cattle and horses are raised in a lesser degree. Ordinarily, the country is well provided with natural grasses, herbage, edible trees, &c. The rainfall for the district is over 21 inches annually. There are several varieties of soil—heavy black, red sandy loam, brown, and light sandy loam. Wheat, maize, and oats are grown successfully around St. George, Weengallon, Thallon, and Dirranbandi. The wheat is principally cut for hay. In several cases, however, the wheat, when harvested for grain, gave splendid returns. This district has also immense fruit-growing possibilities, more especially if irrigation is more generally adopted. The fruits grown in the district

Lagoon on Thuraggi Station, St. George.

include citrus, peaches, figs, apricots, pears, plums, persimmons, passion fruit, melons, dates, &c. Vegetables, of course, also do well when raised by irrigation. There are two sawmills in the district. A proposal is nearing fruition for the establishment of railway communication between St. George and Dunwinnie, on the Warwick-Dirranbandi line. At present horse and motor coaches are used in order to enable travellers to get in touch with the railway system. There is also a regular coach service between St. George and Mitchell.

INDUSTRIES OF THE MARANOA DISTRICT.

In 1914, the primary industries of the Maranoa District were valued, approximately, at over £1,000,000. Of this, the wool clip produced £837,119; agriculture, £36,573; dairying, £22,636; and cattle, horses, and miscellaneous (the last-named including timber, fresh meats and pork, &c.), over £100,000.

THE PASTORAL INDUSTRY.

Sheep.

The Maranoa District is one of the most important sheep-raising areas in the State of Queensland. In 1914, there were 3,155,145 sheep in the district out of a total of 23,129,919 in the whole of Queensland. Compared with 1913, the flocks in the Maranoa District increased by 423,344. The clip for 1914

Mitchell Downs Homestead and Lagoon, Mitchell.

yielded 19,258,260 lb., valued at £837,119. The average weight of each fleece in the grease was 7.06 lb. There were 546 breeders of sheep, and their flocks ranged from 1,087 to over 100,000, the country allotted to each averaging 8 acres.

The natural grasses include:—Mitchell, blue, umbrella, star, fox-tail, button, and couch; and the herbage—several varieties of salt bush, pigweed, carrots, parsnips, crow's foot, rib-grass, and trefoil. There are many edible trees—Mulga, wilga, myall, whitewood, ironwood, beefwood, leopard tree, emu apple, bottle trees, &c. In several instances Rhodes grass and lucerne are cultivated on a small scale.

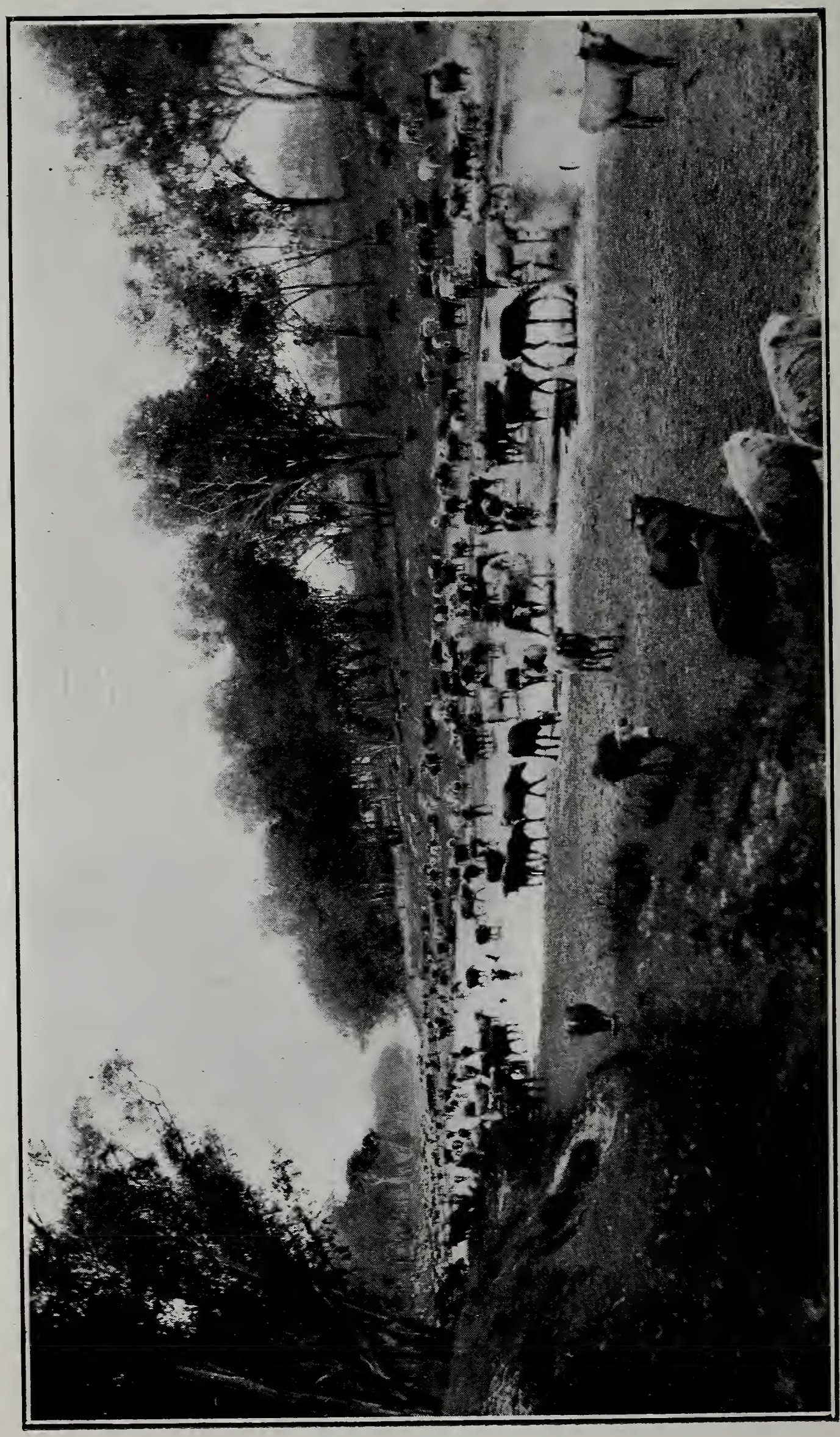
The following are the largest stations in the Maranoa District:—Noondi, Narine, &c. (St. George district), 117,566; Bonus Downs, Cytherea, &c. (Mitchell district), 102,374; Mount Abundance (Roma district), 81,374; Gnoolooma and Dareel (St. George district), 61,961; Doondi and Gulnarbar (St. George district), 61,288; Woodlands, Foyleview, &c. (Mitchell district), 58,381; Ularunda (Morven district), 58,052; Cubbie (St. George district), 52,933; Bundaleer (Bollon district), 52,500; Boatman, &c. (Bollon district), 52,277; Stratton (Surat district), 52,120; Boombah, Whyenbah, and Boah (St. George district), 49,615; Bindango (Roma district), 47,372; Noorindoo (Surat district), 47,328; Redford, Hillside, &c. (Mitchell district), 46,000; Glenearn (Surat district), 43,157. There are a number of other large stations carrying from 10,000 to 42,000 sheep.

With a view of imparting practical knowledge to students in the classing of merino wool, an examination is held annually on Eurella Station (Mitchell district) under the auspices of the State Technical College. Eurella homestead, it may be mentioned, is one of the most palatial in Queensland.

The bulk of the wool in the Maranoa District is sent to the wool sales in Brisbane, Sydney, or London in its greasy state. There are, however, several portable wool-scouring plants, which treat the wool on various stations.

Shearers' Rates.

According to the award of the Commonwealth Arbitration and Conciliation Court on the 27th October, 1911, and which will remain in force for five years from that date, the following rates of wages were fixed for shed and station hands:—Shearers (adults), 24s. per 100 for flock sheep, 30s. per 100 for stud ewes, 48s. per 100 for stud rams; shed hands (adults), 37s. 6d. per week and found; youths, 18 and under 21 years, 30s. and found;



Mob of 700 Speyed Cows on Maranoa River, Mitchell Downs Station, Mitchell.

youths under 18 years, 25s. and found; cooks, 4s. per week per man, with a minimum wage of 50s. per week and found; wool pressers, £3 5s. per week for piece-work (minimum), or £2 10s. and found.

Grazing Farms.

In recent years many portions of the large sheep runs, held on leasehold tenure, have been resumed by the Government and cut up into blocks of about 10,000 to 20,000 acres each as grazing farms. Many people have settled on such holdings in the South-western country, and are doing well.

Branding Cattle on Brampford Speke Grazing Farm, St. George.

Grazing farms may be secured on lease for a period of up to twenty-eight years. The average annual rent is about 2d. per acre. No grazing farm can exceed 60,000 acres in area. The limitation of area is determined by the rent value, an annual rental of £200 being the limitation. Thus, of lands open at 2d. per acre, the greatest area obtainable would be 24,000 acres; at 1½d. per acre, 32,000 acres; and so on. The term of lease may be any number of years not exceeding twenty-eight, as the opening notification may declare. The annual rent for the first period of seven years is fixed by departmental notification, or by tender. The rent for each subsequent period will be determined by the Land Court.

Cost of Acquiring a Grazing Farm.

The average annual rent of a grazing farm is 2d. per acre. As an example, a 20,000-acre farm may be taken. The cost of survey would be £60, and the annual rent during the first seven years would be £166 13s. 4d. The cost of survey is distributed over five equal payments during the first five years of the lease.

Hybridising Wheat on Bungeworgorai State Farm, Roma.

According to Mr. W. G. Crothers, of Moorenbah Grazing Farm, near Dirranbandi, his initial cost in starting sheep raising on a block of country, aggregating 40,000 acres, nine years ago, was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
First year's rent at 1d. per acre	166	13	4
One-fifth survey fee	12	0	0
Fencing 40 miles (½ share) at £20 per mile ...	400	0	0
Excavated tank	60	0	0
Well	15	0	0
Hut and sheepyard	75	0	0
Temporary bough woolshed (with capacity for handling 20,000 sheep)	20	0	0
Woolpress	60	0	0
Dray	10	0	0
Two horses	40	0	0
Harness, tools, and sundries	40	0	0
Wages and rations for one man (per year) ...	100	0	0
Maintenance of self, wife, and six children (first year)	100	0	0
Total	£1,098	13	4

It will be noticed that Mr. Crothers did not put down an artesian bore on his holding. In point of fact, he had no need to do so, as his country was well watered by one or two creeks. Had a bore been necessary, it would have involved an expenditure of about £2,250—that is, reckoning on one with a depth of 1,500 feet.

Mr. A. A. Moore, of Bonathorne Grazing Farm, Dirranbandi, states that he started nine years ago with a capital of £2,500. His initial expenditure was as under:—

	£	s.	d.
First year's rent on 20,000 acres at 1¼d. per acre	104	3	4
One-fifth survey fee	12	0	0
Fencing 30 miles of sub-division at £30 per mile	900	0	0
Cost of excavated tank	300	0	0
Well and windmill, &c.	130	0	0
Use of artesian bore water (per year)	20	0	0
Woolshed (with six shearing machines driven by oil engine)	300	0	0
Woolpress and scales	40	0	0
Dray	20	0	0
Lorry	38	0	0
Four horses	80	0	0
Harness	20	0	0
Wages and rations for one man (per year) ...	135	0	0
Keep for self and married couple (per year) ...	300	0	0
House and furniture	260	0	0
Stock and sheepyards	70	0	0
Total	£2,729	3	4

ARTESIAN BORES.

According to the Government Hydraulic Engineer, there are seventy-one artesian bores, and fully 100 subartesian bores, in the Maranoa District. A study of the map appearing elsewhere in this book will show the location of the artesian bores. The deepest artesian bore is on Teeswater Holding, on the Maranoa River (Mitchell district), with a depth of 4,297 feet, and a daily flow of 35,000 gallons. The Homeboin No. 2 bore, about 30 miles north of Bollon, has the largest daily flow (3,000,000 gallons), with a depth of 2,322 feet; and the Mulga Downs No. 2 bore, about 10 miles north-east of Tego, has the smallest daily flow

(13,900 gallons), with a depth of 2,300 feet. The Elmina No. 2 bore, near the western boundary, is the shallowest (809 feet), with a daily flow of 280,000 gallons. Other large flowing bores include:—Bindebango (Bollon district), 2,400,000 gallons, depth,

Experimental Wheat Plots, Bungeworgorai State Farm, Roma.

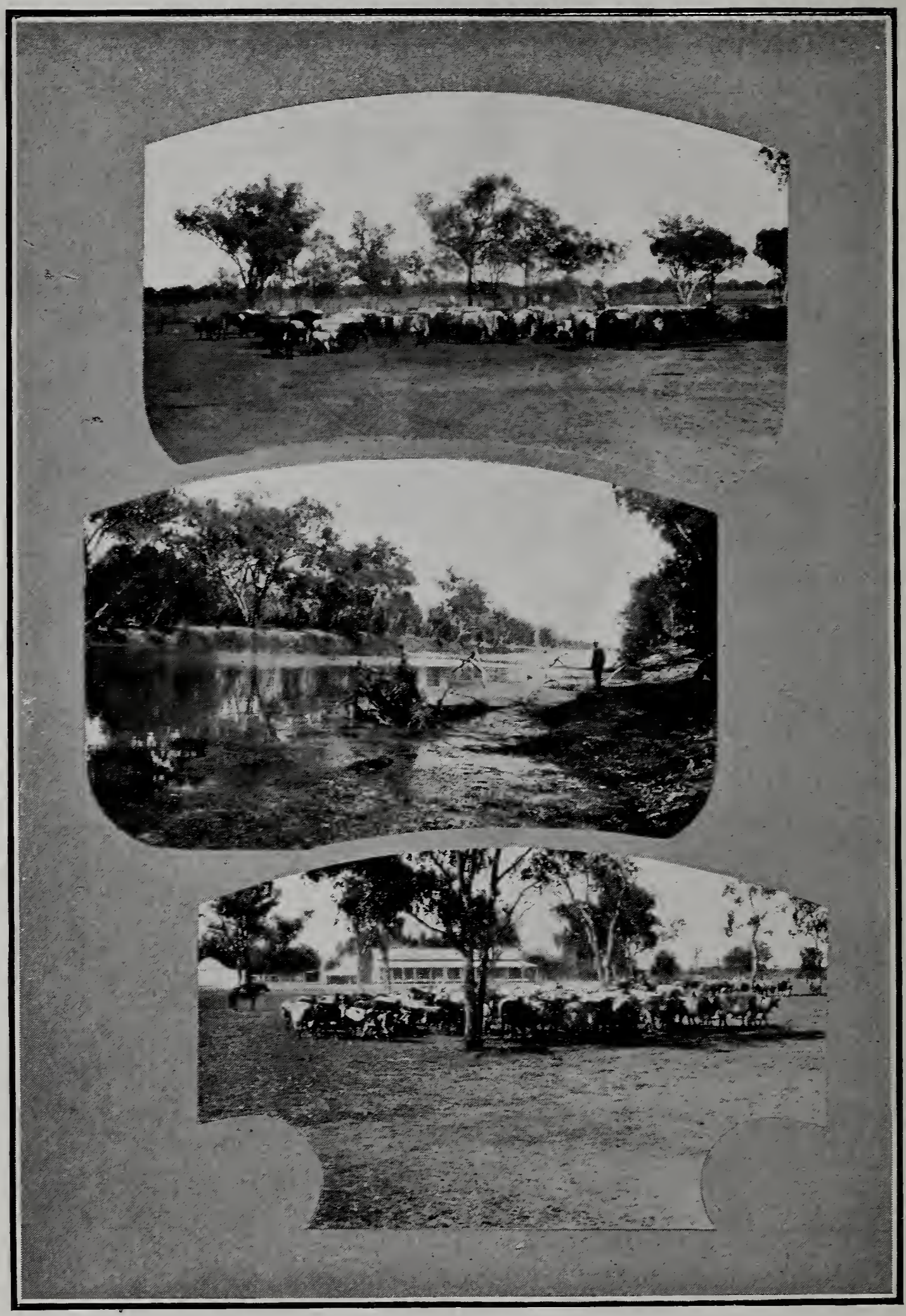
2,483 feet; Cashmere West (St. George district), 2,200,000 gallons, depth 2,796 feet; Charlton (Bollon district), 2,000,000 gallons, depth 2,000 feet; Corio (Bollon district), 1,602,000 gallons, depth 1,796 feet; Bendena No. 2 (Bollon district), 1,685,000 gallons, depth 1,861 feet; Bendena No. 1 (Bollon district), 1,594,500 gallons, depth 1,764 feet; Fernlee (Bollon district), 1,574,000 gallons, depth, 2,102 feet; Tongy No. 1 (Bollon district, 1,500,000 gallons, depth 2,800 feet; Woolerina No. 2 (Bollon district), 1,420,000 gallons, depth 2,908 feet; Cypress Downs No. 3 (Bollon district), 1,397,382 gallons, depth 3,500 feet; Clifton No. 1 (Bollon district), 1,391,100 gallons, depth 1,758 feet. There are many others with a daily flow of over 1,000,000 gallons. The No. 2 bore at Roma, with a depth of 3,710 feet, has a daily flow of only 198,300 gallons; and the daily flow from the Muckadilla bore is only 23,000 gallons, and its depth is 3,762 feet.

The cost of putting down an artesian bore is calculated on the basis of 30s. (including all expenses) per foot on from 1,500 feet to 2,000 feet, the average depth of artesian bores in the sheep country of the State. The following are the charges for boring only:—For the first 1,000 feet, 16s.; 1,000 feet to 1,500 feet, 17s.; 1,500 feet to 2,000 feet, 18s.; 2,000 feet to 2,500 feet, 19s.; 2,500 feet to 3,000 feet, 20s. The foregoing prices depend to a great extent upon the facilities available in the district in which the bores are about to be put down—such

Winnowing and Bagging Wheat on Bungeworgorai State Farm, Roma.

as transport, and wood and water. Where a farm is watered by natural streams no bore would be necessary. Even where there is no natural supply of water a farm might be supplied from a bore on an adjacent property. In this latter case an annual charge would be made by the owner of the bore, such charge usually being about £50.

According to the evidence of one of the members of a large artesian well-boring firm given before the Land Appeal Court in Brisbane recently, the ruling price for boring last year was as follows:—For the first 1,000 feet, 19s. per foot; for the second 1,000 feet, 21s.; and for the third 1,000 feet, 26s.



1. *and* 3. *Beef Shorthorns on Boombah Station, St. George.*
2. *Hospital Reach, Balonne River, St. George.*

WATER CONSERVATION AND IRRIGATION.

Taken as a whole, the Maranoa District is exceptionally well watered by natural streams, lagoons, and artesian and sub-artesian bores. The conservation of water is a matter of vital importance to the man on the land; consequently, it follows, as a natural sequence, that the majority of the settlers make ample provision in this direction. Every holding has a number of large excavated tanks, and, in many instances, wells also. With practically an inexhaustible supply of water from the Balonne and Moonie Rivers, the possibility of carrying out a fairly extensive irrigation scheme is very practicable indeed.

Dam on Mount Abundance Station, Roma.

In fact, many of the settlers in the St. George and Surat districts are at the present time demonstrating the practicableness of irrigation in a small way. Were the idea carried out more extensively and more systematically, there is no doubt that the St. George and Surat districts would soon be converted into two of the most productive agricultural areas in Queensland. In 1914, there were 39 acres under irrigation in the St. George district, and 50 acres in the Roma district. The St. George and Surat districts lend themselves particularly for irrigation, because of the fact that there are always permanent long stretches of

deep water in the Balonne River. Many of the settlers in the Roma, Mitchell, and St. George districts are also raising profitable crops of fruits, vegetables, &c., annually by means of the artesian bore water.

Under "The Rights in Water and Water Conservation and Utilization Acts of 1910-15," grazing farmers, pastoralists, and agriculturists are afforded assistance by the Government in putting down artesian and sub-artesian bores, or obtaining permanent water on their holdings. Hereunder is an example of what can be done under the Act in question by two or more selectors:—

	£	s.	d.
Cost of putting down a bore on a grazing area of 60,000 acres, the whole of which would be benefited, say	2,000	0	0
20 miles of drains at £15 per mile	300	0	0
Total cost of work	2,300	0	0

This cost would be treated as a loan to the grazing farmers, pastoralists, or agriculturists for a period not exceeding thirty years, and the annual charges thereon would be:—

	£	s.	d.
Interest and redemption on £2,300 at £5 15s. 8d. per cent. per annum	133	0	4
Maintenance and administration of works, say ...	200	0	0
Total annual charge	333	0	4

Or equivalent to a rate or charge per acre of 1.33d., or less than 1½d. At the end of the thirty years' period the bore would become the property of the grazing farmers, pastoralists, or agriculturists concerned.

What a Grazing Farm Will Carry.

A grazing farm of 20,000 acres, including the improvements mentioned, can work 6,000 sheep safely. This number, with ordinary management, would return £600 a year net, after paying all expenses. The carrying capacity of the farm may generally be increased by subdividing—that is to say, if the farm is divided into two paddocks, it will carry 7,000 sheep; if into three paddocks, 8,000 sheep; if four, 9,000 sheep. Every

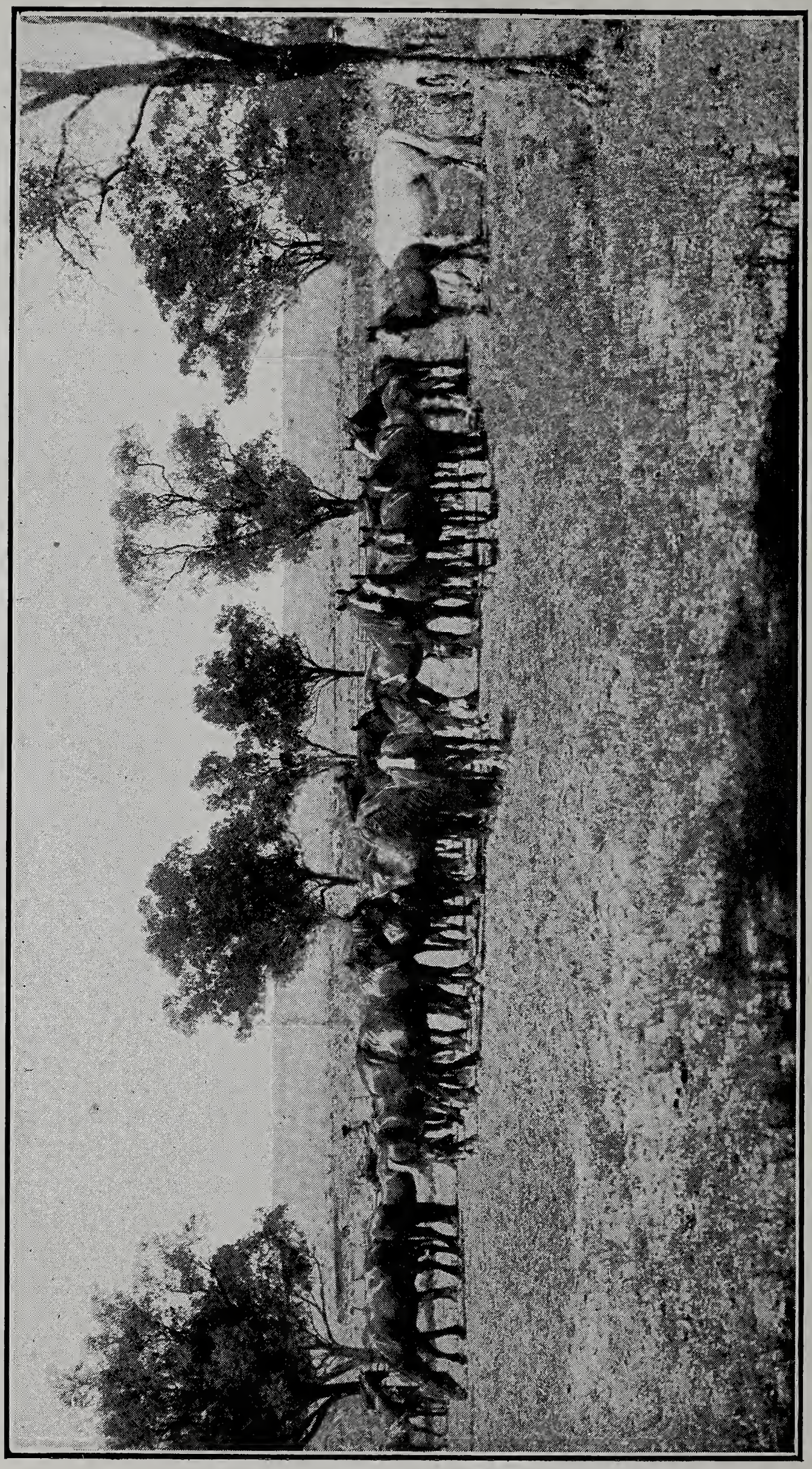
1,000 sheep means £100 a year profit. There are some well-divided farms, which have carried 13,000 sheep all the year round for years.

A well-known, and a very successful grazier in the Maranoa District, considers that a comfortable living can be made on a grazing farm of 10,000 acres; but to attain this object the holding must be properly subdivided into paddocks, and the country must be ringbarked. When this is done country similar to his own will, under normal meteorological conditions, carry one sheep to three acres without any difficulty.

Picking Grapes in a Roma Vineyard.

Cattle.

The breeding of cattle, particularly beef strains, engages a great deal of attention from pastoralists in the Maranoa District. The breeds most generally favoured are Shorthorns and Herefords, and there are also, one or two herds of Aberdeen-Angus Black Polled in the St. George and Surat districts. In 1914 the herds totalled 286,298, as against 291,156 in 1913. The total number of cattle in Queensland in 1914 was 5,455,943. For the past few years exceptionally high prices have been obtained for prime stock, with the result that breeders have had a very



Blood Mares and Foals on Mount Abundance Station, Roma.

prosperous time. Several of the pastoralists have small herds of stud cattle. A large extent of the Maranoa District is eminently suitable for cattle raising.

Buyers from the various meatworks regularly visit the cattle runs, and purchase large drafts of cattle; these are then trucked to their respective meatworks, and eventually slaughtered for home consumption and export.

The following are the twelve largest cattle stations in the Maranoa District:—Womblebank, Warrong, &c. (Mitchell district), 12,268; Westgrove (Roma district), 12,067; Homeboin (Bollon district), 9,966; Merivale (Mitchell district), 9,474; Mount Hutton (Roma district), 9,000; Mitchell Downs and Forest Vale South (Mitchell district), 8,732; Forest Vale (Mitchell district), 7,524; Boatman, &c. (Bollon district), 7,507; Euthulla, Coogoon, and Cornwall (Roma district), 7,500; Tomoo (Mitchell district), 7,412; Crystal Brook, Bundora, &c. (Mitchell district), 6,440; Abbieglassie, Lussvale, Bargunyah (Mitchell district), 6,360.

On Mount Hutton Station, Roma District.

In 1914 the Maranoa District was carrying 7.30 cattle to every 88 acres, or about one beast to 11 acres. There were 1,421 breeders of cattle in the district during the period under review.

Horses.

Quite a number of pastoralists breed horses, as well as sheep and cattle. The strains raised are:—Bloods, light and heavy draughts, and hackneys. Sales are regularly held in Roma, Mitchell, and St. George. Out of a total of 743,059 horses in Queensland in 1914, there were 39,737 head in the Maranoa District—an increase of 1,596 as compared with the preceding year.

Railway Cutting at Yingerbay on Roma-Orallo Line.

With a view of maintaining the high standard of the Queensland horseflesh, all stallions presented for exhibition at agricultural and pastoral shows are subjected to a searching veterinary examination in regard to their soundness.

Appended are the ten largest horse-breeding stations in the Maranoa District:—Gnoolooma, Dareel, Noondoo, Narine, &c. (St. George district), 899; Womblebank, Warrong, &c. (Mitchell district), 423; Tomoo (Mitchell district), 374; Thirsty Downs (Bollon district), 365; Westgrove (Roma district), 358; Bendemere and Muggleton (Yeulba district), 356; Mitchell Downs and Forest Vale South (Mitchell district), 337; Mount Hutton (Roma district), 316; Bonus Downs, Cytherea, &c. (Mitchell district), 305; Clifton (Bollon district), 300.

Angora and Common Goats.

Angora and common goats are bred by a number of the smaller settlers for domestic purposes—that is to say, for their milk and for their flesh. The latter is a very good substitute for sheep mutton. Though official records show that there were only 177 Angora goats and 3,300 of the common breed in the

New Anglican Church, Roma.

Maranoa District in 1914, there are considerably more of the former, and, at least, ten times more of the latter. The common goat is a splendid standby for small settlers, as it insures for them milk and mutton even under the most adverse climatic conditions.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

Given favourable meteorological conditions, the agricultural possibilities of the Maranoa District are quite as good as those in other portions of Queensland. Of recent years there has been remarkable development in the agricultural and dairying industries, and the new settlers, though faced with many difficulties, have, by grim determination and grit, succeeded in demonstrating the wonderful productiveness of the soil. That the soil is admirably adapted for agriculture is abundantly exemplified by the statistics published elsewhere in this book. In point of

Scenes on Bungeworgorai State Farm, Roma.
1. *Orchard and Vineyard.* 2. *Crop of Alpha Wheat.*
3. *Manager's Residence.*

fact, it is only a matter of time when the Maranoa District will be equally as productive as the famed Darling Downs. Evidence is forthcoming that the Maranoa District will produce all kinds of crops even under adverse conditions. There are large areas of fertile land available for settlement in small blocks on easy terms and conditions. Speaking generally, the rainfall, under normal conditions, is satisfactory. There is room for thousands of new agriculturists in the Maranoa District, and success can be attained by those who display perseverance, pluck, and thrift. As has already been stated in this book, the Maranoa District is well watered by many permanent streams and lagoons, and an ample supply of water can, invariably, be obtained by sinking a well to a fairly shallow depth.

Winnowing Wheat on Bungeworgorai State Farm, Roma.

In the Maranoa District, as in other parts of Queensland, it is the settler who engages in mixed farming—that is to say, raising crops and stock—that attains the greatest measure of success on the land. A good number of agriculturists in different portions of the District devote much attention to the breeding of sheep for their wool, and also for the butcher.

In 1914 there were 27,085 acres under cultivation, and 15,004 acres under crops. During the preceding year the figures were:—Under cultivation, 26,562 acres; under crops, 15,976 acres. The total value of the production in 1914 was £59,209. In the

Roma district, where the bulk of the agricultural operations are pursued, there were 838 persons engaged in general farming and dairying, and the machinery used in connection therewith was valued at £26,659. By way of comparison, it may be mentioned, that, in 1914, there were 981,218 acres under cultivation and 792,568 acres under crops in the whole of Queensland.

The prickly-pear pest is very much in evidence in different parts of the Maranoa District, and several schemes are being tried to bring about its eradication. The experiments at Dulacca

Reaper and Binder at Work on Bungeworgorai State Farm, Roma.

by the Government and the Cactus Estates, Limited, are, naturally, being watched with considerable interest. The latter company claim that it has solved the difficulty by the use of vapour gas. Messrs. Roebig Bros., of Kia Ora Farm, Pickanjinnie, have, also, by means of a poisonous powder, had a great deal of success. Other settlers are eradicating the prickly-pear by digging it out of the ground, and then burning it. When this is properly done, it is not a difficult task to keep the land clear of the pest. A number of dairymen, on the other hand, feed their stock on the pear, and they contend that it is an excellent stand-by when there is little or no grass during protracted dry

spells. The most efficacious method of utilising the pear for feeding stock appears to be by boiling the young leaves until they become a pulp. At the present time the State Government is carrying out experiments in the Wallumbilla district with a view of ascertaining whether the prickly-pear can be used advantageously as a fodder.

State Encouragement.

The Government assists in every way possible to further the primary industries of the State, and the many experts associated with the Department of Agriculture and Stock are

Court House, Roma.

always at the disposal of the man on the land. This is particularly the case in connection with the settler who is engaged in general farming, dairying, fruit-growing, &c. Further, this Department, by means of State Farms, demonstrates in a practical manner what the land is capable of producing profitably. An efficient system of dairy inspection and testing of herds is also carried out by Government officials, and by this

means a marked improvement has been brought about in dairying generally. There is one State Farm in the Maranoa District, and that is at Bungeworgorai, about 7 miles from Roma.

Primarily, the State Farm at Bungeworgorai, near Roma, is used for the breeding of wheats, and in this connection it has fully justified its establishment. Twenty-seven varieties of the staple agricultural product have been raised. Those most recommended for cultivation, after thorough tests, are:—Bunge No. 1, Amby, John Brown, Gluyas, and Hermitage. Ninety-seven varieties of grapes have also been experimented with, and are now doing well on the Farm. Other field experiments, in addition to the breeding and cross-breeding of wheats and vines, include rotation crops, different depths and methods of working, rates and depths of seeding, manurial and variety tests, cultivation of cowpeas, sorghums, Rhodes grass, citrus, stone fruits, &c. The Farm, which, a few years ago, was densely infested with prickly-pear, has an area of 790 acres, all of which is now free from the pest. There are three kinds of soil—light sand, sandy loam, and black loam on the creek flats. The manager considers that the creek flats will grow lucerne successfully. In 1914 there were 180 acres under crops—89 acres of wheat, 12½ acres of fruits (including 4 acres of grapes, 5 acres of citrus fruits, 2 acres of olives, the balance being made up of peaches, apricots, plums, figs, dates, &c.). In addition to the above crops, there were 25 acres of cowpea (used principally for green manure), and 7 acres of sorghum. Under ordinary conditions, maize also gives good returns. The wheat yield, in 1914, averaged 21 bushels to the acre. All the operations are carried out on the dry-farming system. Some attention is also paid to dairying. The herd, which is small, consists of purebred Ayrshires. The dairy and milking stalls are equipped on modern lines. There are two circular silos—one of reinforced concrete (with a capacity of 120 tons), and the other of galvanised iron lined with cement (with a capacity of 60 tons). Chaffed maize, cowpeas, sorghums, wheat, and summer herbage are used for the making of the silage. All the buildings on the State Farm for the accommodation of the manager and his staff are comfortable, and those for the housing of the stock are well arranged.

Wheat.

A considerable area of the Maranoa District is admirably adapted for the cultivation of wheat. This is particularly noticeable in the Roma, Wallumbilla, Amby, Mitchell, Surat, St. George, and Yeulba districts. In point of fact, it has been abundantly demonstrated that crops of this cereal in these districts have yielded exceptionally good returns. The bulk of the wheat harvested for grain, however, is grown around Roma, Wallumbilla, and Amby. The Surat district is singularly suitable for the cultivation of wheat, as the results of, at least, two graziers go to prove. In 1903, Mr. J. Taylor, of Russell Park Grazing Farm, averaged 40 bushels per acre from 110 acres, and from the same area in the following year the average was 20 bushels per acre.

Dominion Flour Mill, Roma.

Mr. L. E. M. Wehl, of Gambier Park Grazing Farm, stripped 25 acres in 1904 for a yield of 34 bushels per acre. Years ago Mount Abundance homestead had as many as 2,500 acres under wheat on the share system, the portion stripped for grain yielding 18 bushels to the acre.

In 1914 there were 12,106 acres under wheat in the Maranoa District. Of this, 1,078 acres were cut for hay, yielding 959 tons, and valued at £3,828. The area harvested for grain totalled 11,028 acres, the return therefrom being 91,649 bushels, valued

Stud Wheat in Stook on Bungeworgorai State Farm, Roma.

at £16,389. The average return of grain per acre was 8.31 bushels. The Roma district (including Wallumbilla and Pickanjinnie) produced 79,569 bushels from 9,575 acres; Mitchell, 11,576 bushels from 1,268 acres; and Yeulba, 504 bushels from 185 acres.

The largest growers of wheat in the Maranoa District in 1914 were:—J. G. Brompton (Hodgson, near Roma), 270 acres, average 20 bushels per acre; J. W. Aisthorpe (Hodgson), 135 acres, average over 10 bushels; Alex. Fortune (Yingerbay), 80 acres, average 7 bushels; Zumpe Bros. (Roma), 220 acres, average 18 bushels; Bryant and McLean, Limited (Roma), 95 acres, average over 13 bushels; P. Nolan (Mitchell) 60 acres, average 15 bushels; G. Read (Mungallala), 10 acres, average 20 bushels; F. Walker (Mungallala), 40 acres, average 14 bushels; M. Sorensen (Mungallala), 30 acres, average 15 bushels; W. J. Sullivan (Amby), 60 acres, average 9 bushels; S. York (Wallumbilla), 130 acres, average 9 bushels; A. McCutcheon (Wallumbilla), 50 acres, average nearly 8 bushels; J. R. Hornick (Wallumbilla), 115 acres, over 8 bushels; G. Wells (Pickanjinnie), 160 acres, average 18 bushels; J. Hoffman (Pickanjinnie), 200 acres, average about 7 bushels; W. Brompton (Amby), is also a large grower.

According to Mr. J. G. Brompton, of Hodgson, near Roma, the following is a reasonable estimate of the cost of cultivating and harvesting wheat on open forest land in the district:—

	£	s.	d.
	Per Acre.		
Clearing light scrub	3	0	0
Ploughing (2) at 5s.	0	10	0
Harrowing	0	2	6
Planting with drill	0	2	6
Disc harrowing	0	5	0
Harvesting, at 6d. per bushel (with complete harvester, and carting wheat to railway station, and 10 per cent. for depreciation on machinery)	0	10	0
Seed (½ bushel to acre)	0	2	0
Wheat sacks at 9d. each	0	5	0
Total	£4	17	0

During the second and succeeding years the average cost per acre would be only £1 17s., as there would be no further

clearing to do on the land in question. Under normal conditions, wheat-growers average about 4s. 6d. per bushel for their crop at the flour mill. Calculating his average yield in 1914 at 20 bushels per acre, Mr. Brompton states that he made a profit of £2 13s. per acre on his crop.

Maize.

This cereal can also be profitably grown in the Maranoa District. In point of fact, several growers obtain yields which compare very favourably with those recorded in the recognised maize-producing centres of the State. Up to the present only a limited amount of attention is devoted to the cultivation of this crop in the South-West. In 1914, there were only 313 acres under maize, the return therefrom being 3,200 bushels, valued at £599. The average yield per acre was 10.22 bushels.

Crop of Maize on Mr. J. Telford's Farm, Orallo, Roma District.

The most successful growers of maize in the District are:—J. Telford (Orallo), W. J. Wray (Orallo), Alex. Fortune (Yingerbay), Wolbank and Davidson (Surat), J. Tebbs (St. George), H. A. Robertson (St. George), M. Sorensen (Mungallala), H. M. McLaughlan (Yeulba), S. York (Wallumbilla), P. Volkmann (Wallumbilla), A. McCutcheon (Wallumbilla), F. Rubatto (Wallumbilla), and J. R. Hornick (Wallumbilla).

Other Crops.

Among other crops grown in the Maranoa District in 1914 were:—Oats, rye, barley, lucerne, panicum, Rhodes grass, potatoes (English and sweet), pumpkins and melons, vegetables, vines, fruits (citrus and stone), &c. The following table will show the acreage and yield of each:—

Crop.	Area, Acres.	Yield.
Oats	30 ...	360 bushels
Rye	1 ...	6 bushels
Potatoes (English)	9 ...	16 tons
Potatoes (Sweet)	2 ...	3 tons
Pumpkins and Melons ...	61 ...	272 tons
Hay (all kinds)	1,148 ...	1,053 tons
Green Fodder	2,698 ...	—
Vines	457 ...	1,579,000 lb.
Gardens and Orchards ...	91 ...	—
Miscellaneous Crops	24 ...	—

The hay was valued at £4,213, and the green fodder at £8,990.

Mr. J. Tebb's Orchard, St. George.

There were 114 acres under artificial grasses in the Roma district, and 210 tons of ensilage were also made. Seventeen acres of lucerne were cut for hay (15 acres being in the Mitchell district), and 13 acres (12 of which was in the Roma district) were used as green fodder.

Quite a number of settlers make a good livelihood out of the cultivation of vegetables.

The Fruit Crop.

As a fruit-growing area, the Maranoa District has unlimited possibilities. Fruits of all kinds produce prolifically around Roma, Mitchell, Surat, St. George, Yeulba, and Wallumbilla. This is particularly noticeable in regard to citrus and stone fruits, grapes, and melons. The most successful efforts are being attained through the instrumentality of irrigation. The greater part of the South-Western country is admirably adapted for the cultivation of dates and olives on a large scale. So far very little attention has been given by orchardists to the cultivation of these fruits. Grapes and oranges are more extensively grown, both of which are of excellent flavour. In point of fact, Roma grapes, more particularly the wines, cannot be excelled for their flavour and bouquet in any part of the Commonwealth of Australia. The Roma Villa Vineyards, Limited, which is the largest concern of its kind in Queensland, has 300 acres under vines alone. The annual output of wine totals 31,000 gallons, which consists of Chablis, hock, and sweet and dry wines. These are exported to all parts of the Commonwealth. At the time of the Compiler's visit there were 100,000 gallons of wine in the vaults. Mrs. P. Smith, of Sunnyvale Vineyard, Northern road, Roma, and Mr. J. H. Harland, of Grapeview Vineyard, Bungeworgorai, Roma, are also makers of excellent sweet and dry wines for the local and Queensland trade. The former makes about 2,500 gallons of wine annually, and the latter from 1,600 gallons to 2,000 gallons.

The varieties of fruits generally grown comprise:—Grapes, oranges, lemons, peaches, apricots, apples, figs, plums, melons, quinces, and papaws. St. George and Surat are destined, in the near future, to become large fruit-growing districts. In 1914, there were 457 acres under vines in the Maranoa District, of which 13 acres were non-productive. The yield for the year was 1,579,000 lb., and was valued at £4,939. From 450 acres, Roma produced 1,552,320 lb. of grapes, St. George 16,450 lb. from 3 acres, Mitchell 6,230 lb. from 2 acres, and Yeulba 4,000 lb. from 2 acres. There were three manufacturers of wine in the Roma district, their output totalling 25,000 gallons, valued at £4,475. The average yield of grapes per acre for the Maranoa District was 3,442 lb. The area under citrus fruits aggregated 29 acres, but 10 acres of these were non-productive. The crop

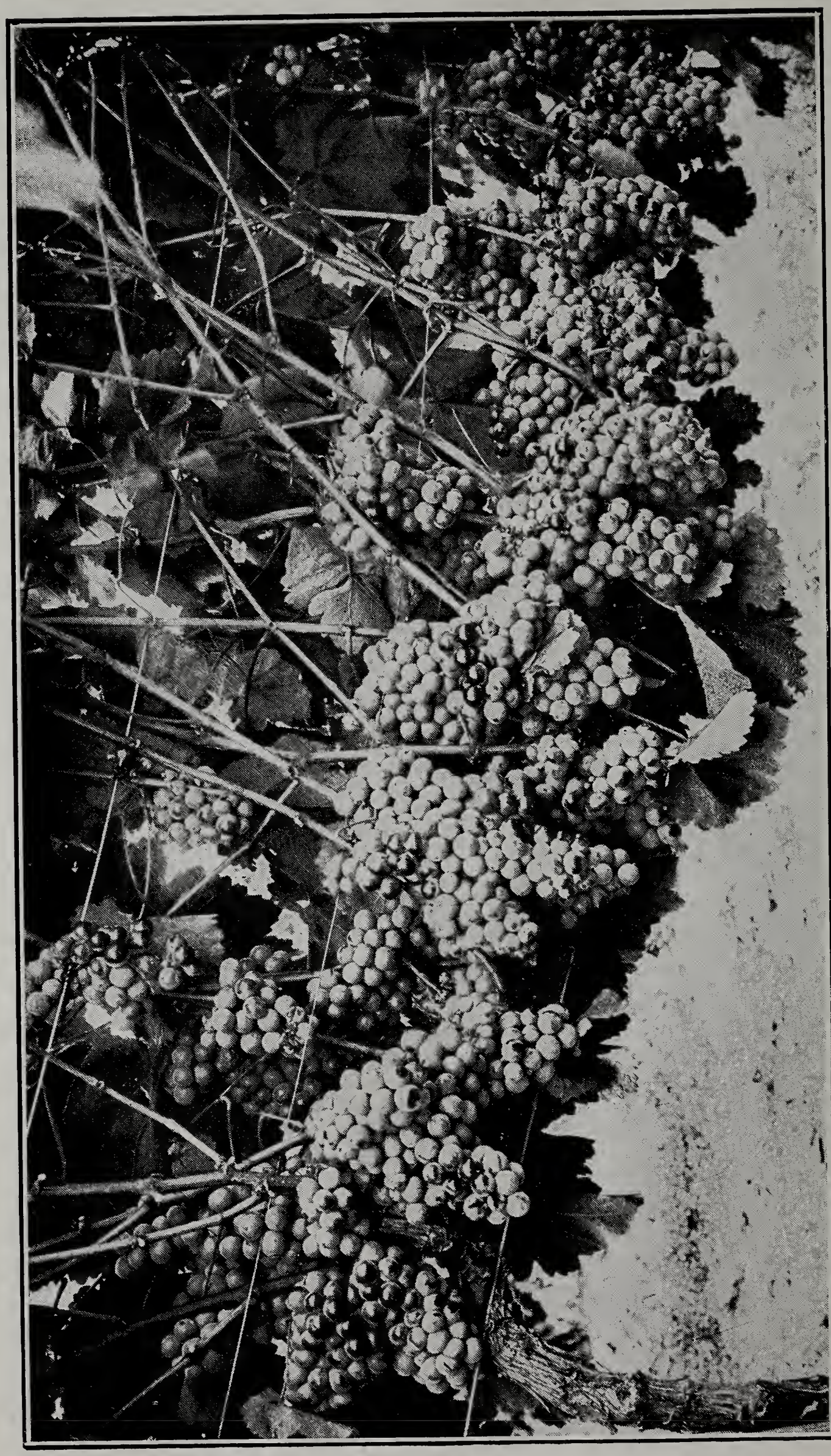
returned 3,709 bushels, valued at £1,113. Roma yielded 2,313 bushels from 13 acres, St. George 984 bushels from 4 acres, and Mitchell 412 bushels from 2 acres. The average return per acre for the Maranoa District was 182 bushels. The total area under all kinds of fruits in 1914 was 537 acres.

The largest growers of fruit in the district are:—Roma Villa Vineyards, Limited, J. H. Harland (Bungeworgorai, Roma), Mrs. P. Smith (Roma), C. W. T. Schefe (Roma), Wolbank and Davidson (Surat), J. Tebbs (St. George), E. Klinge (St. George), H. A. Robertson (St. George), J. Miles (St. George), E. J. Simcoe (Womalilla, Mitchell), I. Giddins (Yeulba), P. Volkmann (Wallumbilla), and J. R. Hornick (Wallumbilla).

Dairy Cattle in the Wallumbilla District.

Dairying.

This highly lucrative branch of agriculture is making steady expansion in the Maranoa District. That dairying can be profitably carried on is abundantly demonstrated by the satisfactory monthly returns of those at present engaged therein; in fact, individual results compare very favourably with those attained in more favoured areas of Queensland.



Crop of Table Grapes at Hon. J. M. Hunter's Residence, Roma; Weight of Grapes on Single Vine, 69 lb.

In 1914, the 4,365 cows in milk yielded 1,366,671 gallons of milk. Of this, 111,321 gallons were utilised for the manufacture of butter on the farms, 129,310 gallons were used for domestic purposes, 1,087,365 gallons were separated for cream for sale to the factories, and 38,675 gallons were sold for consumption as milk. The dairymen manufactured 48,404 lbs. of butter, and 456,960 lbs. of butter were produced by factories. The butter factory at Roma—the only one in the Maranoa District—was responsible for 452,480 lbs. of the total butter production. The total value of the butter production was £22,636. There were 352 dairying establishments, which gave employment to 446 persons in the Roma district. The machinery and appliances used in connection with the industry in the Roma district were valued at £3,708. The dairy herds numbered 7,350, including 2,985 dry cows.

Taken on the whole, the herds in the District are a very mixed lot, and it is surprising that such good results are obtained therefrom. In many instances, however, dairymen have gone in for good sorts, such as grade Shorthorns, Jerseys, and Ayrshires. In much fewer cases attention has been devoted to the breeding of pedigreed beasts. The majority of the herds are fed on natural pasture, and, during dry spells, they mainly subsist on prickly-pear. Many of the dairymen burn off the spines from the leaves of the prickly-pear, and then allow the stock to feed thereon. Others cut off the green leaves, then boil them into a pulp, and then give it to the beasts. There are others also who let their herd eat the prickly-pear in its natural state. One thing is certain about the prickly-pear: It is a splendid stand-by for the dairy herds of the South-West during long periods of dry spell. A few of the dairymen devote some attention to the making of ensilage, and have different styles of silos in which to conserve this very necessary class of feed for stock.

The following are the twelve largest suppliers of cream

OPERATIONS OF SUCCESSFUL DAIRYMEN.

to the Roma Co-operative Dairy Co., Ltd., for the twelve months ended December, 1914:—

Name.	Address.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total Receipts.	AVERAGE COWS IN MILK. Summer.	Winter
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		
A. McCutcheon	Wallumbilla ..	47	47	68	57	42	42	65	47	37	29	39	49	569	70-75	60-70
W. S. Boyce ..	Euthella (Roma)..	39	35	57	48	27	16	21	26	27	26	26	40	388	60-70	25-30
W. A. Maller..	Pickanjinnie ..	38	32	44	44	26	20	16	15	14	14	27	42	332	50-60	20-25
P. Mawn ..	Euthella (Roma)..	38	34	48	43	31	16	15	18	19	17	15	32	326	60-65	25-30
M. Wecker ..	Yeubla ..	27	29	32	24	20	23	18	11	17	17	17	30	265	..	..
R. E. Nimmo..	Wallumbilla ..	23	17	28	25	19	20	26	29	17	16	17	25	262	40-50	30-40
C. W. Nimmo	Blythdale ..	22	23	30	28	14	10	9	8	12	18	28	29	231	40-50	20
A. Waldron ..	Yingerbay (Roma)	20	21	26	21	15	13	8	20	22	23	18	23	230	25-30	20
C. Leadbetter	Mungallala ..	19	25	28	28	16	13	12	15	13	15	15	21	220	30-35	20-25
Mrs. K. Beale	Mungallala ..	27	23	28	26	16	11	12	12	9	13	11	17	205	30-35	20
J. Regan ..	Roma ..	12	8	14	19	18	17	18	21	18	14	9	13	181	15-20	25
W. Grace ..	Blythdale ..	24	25	28	19	11	6	4	4	4	11	18	22	176	30-40	10-15

A little dairying on the half-share principle is carried on. Several of the station owners set aside portion of their holdings for dairying purposes, erect the necessary buildings thereon, and provide the dairy herd. The dairymen, in turn, must provide all labour for the carrying on of the farm, and also cultivate portion of it with feed for the stock. In consideration therefor the contracting parties share equally in any profits which accrue from the operations on the farm. As has already been stated in this book, there is only one butter factory in the Maranoa District. This is at Roma, and is controlled by

Roma Co-operative Dairy Co.'s Butter Factory, Roma.

the Roma Co-operative Dairy Company, Ltd. It is equipped with all the most modern appliances for the manufacture of butter and ice, and has a capacity for producing from 7 tons to 8 tons of butter per week. The number of suppliers of cream ranged, in 1914, from 130 to 180, and the average price paid for cream was 10.20d. per lb. of commercial butter. The output of butter during the year in question was 202 tons, the bulk of which was sold at Brisbane prices in Roma and other towns along the South-Western line. The butter exported realised top prices; one consignment, in particular, brought 150s. per

cwt. in 1914. The following table will show the progress made by the factory since its opening four years ago:—

Year.	Tons of Butter Made.	Amount Paid to Suppliers.	Average Price Paid for Cream per lb.	Profits for Year.
		£		£
1911	87¾	6,557	8·56*d.*	94
1912	77½	8,180	11·38*d.*	364
1913	159½	16,007	10·08*d.*	571
1914	202	17,921	10·16*d.*	1,113

Pigs.

Speaking generally, the rearing of pigs for market is only pursued on a small scale at present. The majority of the settlers breed the porcine animal principally for their own requirements. In 1914, there were 2,021 pigs in the Maranoa District, and of these 1,349 were in the Roma district, 288 in the Mitchell district, and 217 in the St. George district. In the Roma district, during the same period, 219 pigs were slaughtered, from which 3,099 lbs. of fresh pork, 7,743 lbs. of salt and preserved pork, and 14,051 lbs. of bacon and hams were obtained.

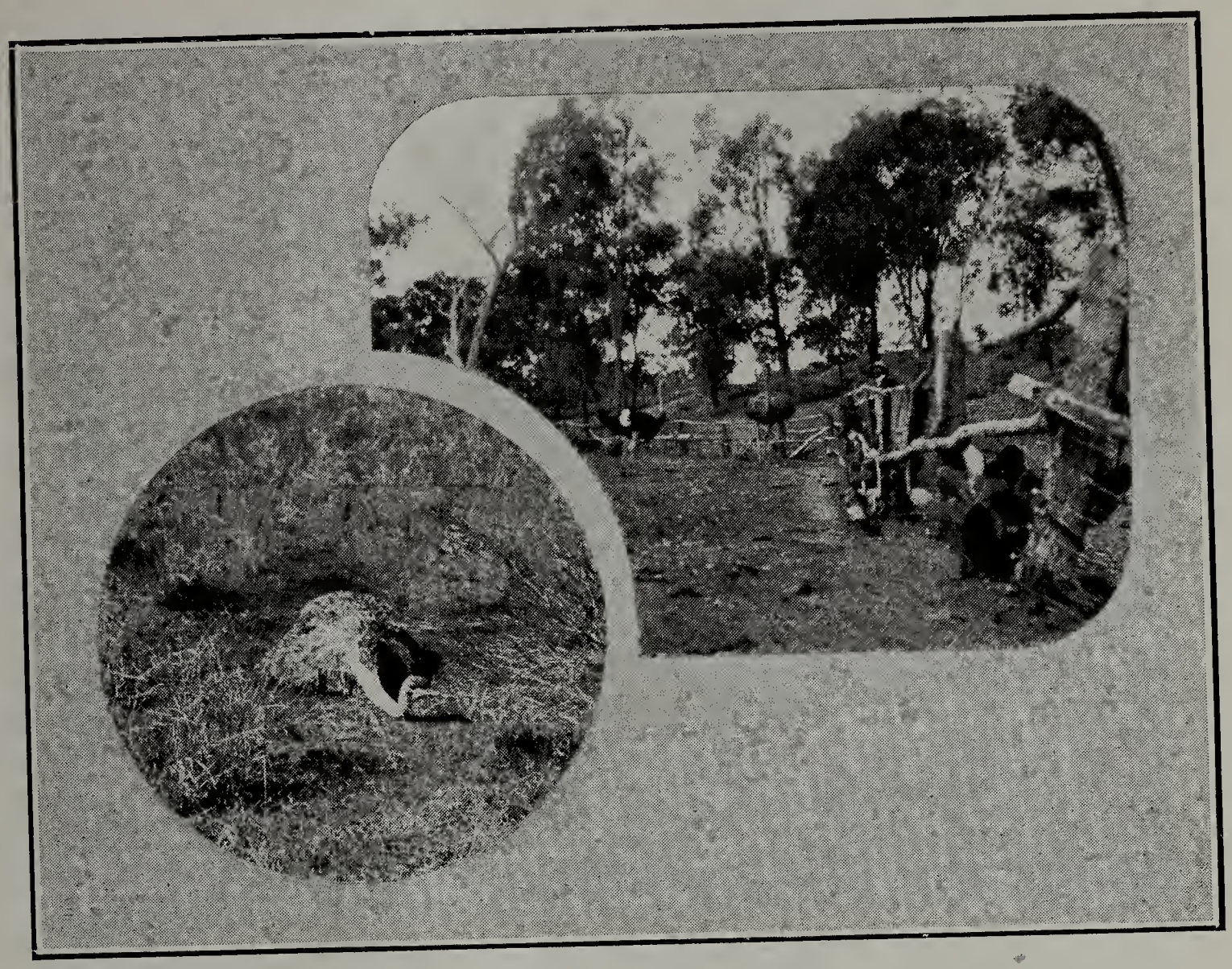
Other Agricultural Pursuits.

Included in these are the raising of ostriches, poultry, and bee-farming, each of which is only carried on in a small way.

On Bendemere Station, in the Yeulba district, Mr. F. J. M. Bowman is testing the possibilities of the district for ostrich rearing, and with that idea in view has obtained a male and female bird respectively. At the time of the visit of the Compiler of this book, the ostriches appeared to be doing well on the natural herbage within their enclosure.

Poultry-raising for market claims a fair amount of attention, particularly around Roma. In 1914, the fowls numbered 11,902, turkeys 1,464, ducks 406, and geese 45. The quantity of eggs marketed totalled 34,445 dozen. Roma raised 9,792 fowls, 1,019 turkeys, 263 ducks, and 43 geese, and 26,845

dozen eggs were marketed. [The foregoing figures do not include the operations of householders, who raise poultry for their own private use. Figures in regard to these are not obtainable from official sources.]



Ostriches on Bendemere Station, Yeulba District.

The bulk of the bee-farming is done in and around Roma. A little, also, is pursued in the Mitchell, St. George, Surat, and Yeulba districts. In 1914, there were 138 productive and 30 non-productive hives in the Roma district, which yielded 8,894 lbs. of honey, and 215 lbs. of beeswax.

THE TIMBER INDUSTRY.

Though numerous varieties of timbers abound in the Maranoa District, only a small number of these are put to a commercial use. Cypress pine and hardwoods, of which there are fairly extensive forests, are chiefly handled by the different sawmills, and are largely used for building purposes. The

Roma Villa Vineyards Ltd., showing Vaults and Irrigated Orchard.

majority of the private dwellings and business places in the South-West are built of cypress pine, which has the advantage of being immune to the ravages of white ants. A great deal of hardwood is also utilised by the State Railway Department for

General Hospital, Roma.

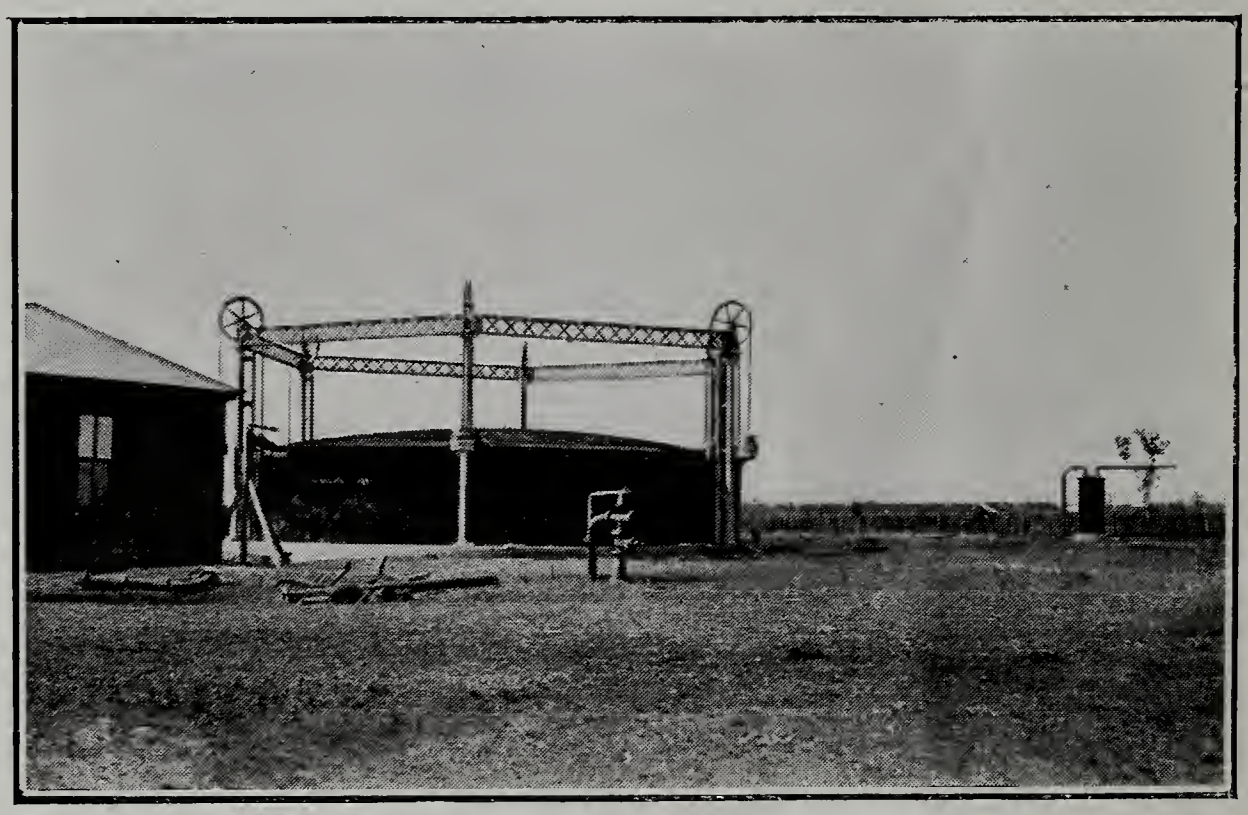
sleepers, while the majority of the settlers use it for fencing in their holdings. Many of the other timbers could also be used advantageously for fencing and other purposes.

In 1914, there were six sawmills in the Maranoa District—Roma 1, St. George district 2, and Yeulba district 3. The total value of the machinery and plant of the six sawmills was £4,310, while their outputs for the year were valued at £9,736—softwoods, £9,554; hardwoods, £182. The mills in question gave employment to 50 hands.

MINERAL POSSIBILITIES.

That the Maranoa District possesses mineral possibilities of more than ordinary significance is conclusively demonstrated by the fact that fairly large seams of coal exist around Roma and Mitchell. When these are properly developed it is not at all unlikely that the resources of the District will be considerably augmented. Coal is to be found on the banks of Bungil,

Bungeworgorai, and Eurombah Creeks, in the Roma district, and on the Merivale River, in the Mitchell district. So far nothing has been done to put this mineral to any commercial use. The same remarks apply to the large quarries of sandstone (eminently adaptable for building purposes), which exist at Yingerbay, in the Roma district. Furthermore, there is a large area of asbestos-bearing country at Mount Eddystone, in the Mitchell district. Viewed from a mineralogical standpoint, the Maranoa District appears to have immense wealth below its surface.



Gasometer at the Roma Gas Bore.

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS PROSPECTS AT ROMA.

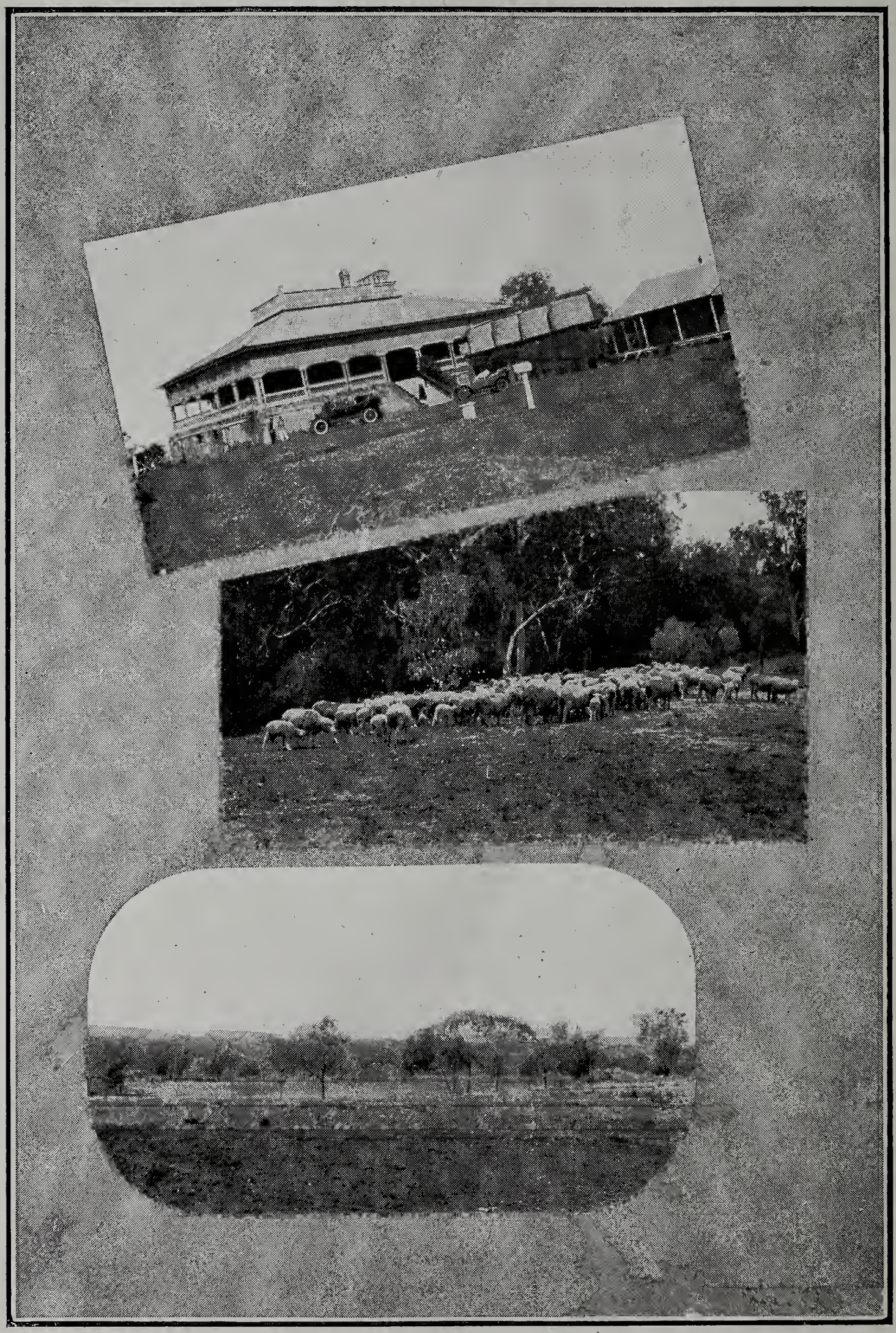
Fifteen years ago hydrocarbon gases were proved to exist in two of the artesian bores in Roma, but it was not until 1908 that these liquid illuminating agencies were found in large volumes. Roma quickly acquired world-wide prominence, and the incident excited the interest of many of the world's most noted scientists. There was a diversity of opinion as to whether the presence of the gases indicated the existence of wells of petroleum. Among those who were impressed with prospects for oil were:—Dr. A. C. Veatch, Consulting Geologist, London; Mr. P. Charteris A. Stewart, Consulting Geologist, London; Mr.

W. H. Dalton, F.C.S., F.G.S., Consulting Geologist, London; and Mr. W. E. Cameron, Second Government Geologist for Queensland.

In 1897 the State Hydraulic Engineer put down an artesian bore at Roma, and at a depth of 907 feet water was struck. Boring was continued until 1,360 feet were reached, when a

Roma Gas Bore on Fire.

considerably increased volume of water was obtained. In 1899 a second bore was put down a short distance away from the first one, and in this case a similar volume of water was tapped. During the following year the No. 2 bore was deepened with the idea of obtaining an increased flow. At a depth of 3,683 feet, however, natural gas was struck, with a volume of 39,411 cubic feet per day. For about four years this gas was allowed to run to waste, and then the Roma Town Council took

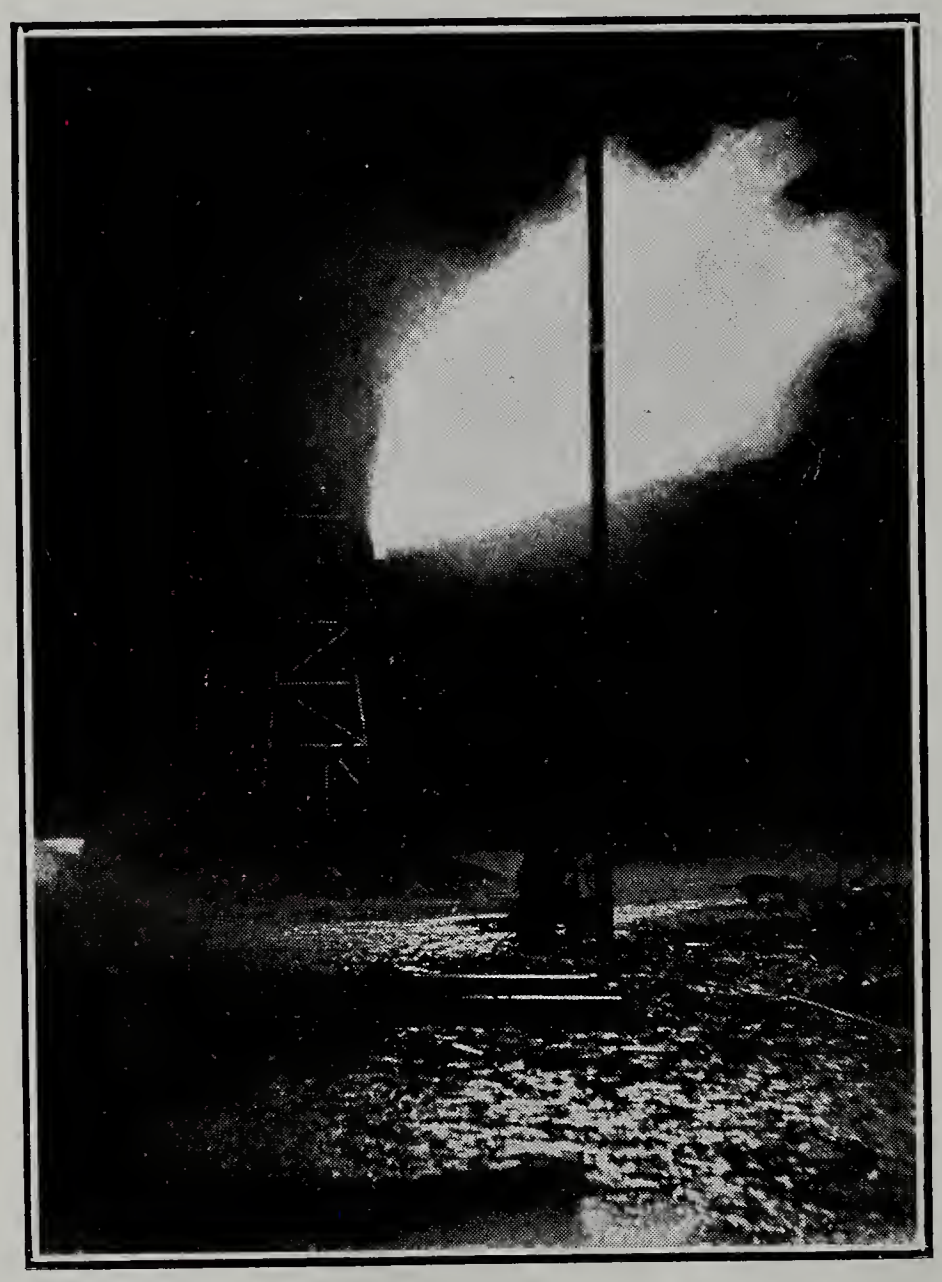


Three Scenes on Eurella Station, Muckadilla District.

steps to utilise it for lighting purposes, a measurement by the Government Hydraulic Engineer determining the flow at 70,000 cubic feet daily. The Town Council erected a gasometer, and had the principal streets laid with connecting mains. For ten days only the town was lighted with gas, and then the flow suddenly gave out. Impressed with the possibilities of obtaining unlimited supplies of oil, the Roma Mineral Oil Company, Ltd., was formed, and a contract was let to a well-known boring company to sink a bore 250 feet south of the No. 2 bore for artesian water, natural gas, or petroleum oil. The Government subsidised the undertaking at the rate of £1 for £1 up to £2,500. The work was started in July, 1907, and a flow of 150,000 gallons of water daily was struck at 1,340 feet. Boring operations were continued until a depth of 3,702 ft. was reached, when an enormous flow of natural gas, estimated at 1,000,000 cubic feet per day (with a pressure of 200 lbs. to 300 lbs. per square inch), was struck. The gas issued from the bore with such force against the walking beam that it stopped the engine from working. The high wind prevailing at the time carried the inflammable vapour to the steam engine, and caused it to ignite. The gas burned with fierce ferocity, and the steel derrick was soon reduced to tangled ruins. The gas as it rushed from the bore made a deafening noise, which could be heard miles away, and at night the mountain of flames illuminated the surrounding country for a considerable distance. So great was the heat that it was not possible to approach the flames nearer than 80 ft., and even then it was necessary to use a shield. The phenomenon excited world-wide interest, and people from all parts of the Commonwealth journeyed to Roma to see what was claimed to be the largest gas bore in the Southern Hemisphere. The volume of the flame was 50 ft. wide, and 30 ft. high. Steps were at once taken to extinguish the flames, and an iron hood or cap was specially constructed for this purpose. This hood was 6 ft. by 6 ft., 8 ft. high, with a 10-inch diameter pipe 20 ft. in length extending from the top, and an outlet pipe 6 inches in diameter and 40 ft. long extending from the side 5 ft. from the bottom. By means of a derrick, 52 ft. in height, the hood was raised and placed over the flames during a heavy downpour of rain. The volume of the flames was soon reduced, but a large jet of fire issued from the top

of the upright pipe. The valves were then closed down, and the gas was completely shut off, after burning for nearly two months.

An analysis of the gas by the Government Chemical Laboratory showed that it contained:—Carbon dioxide, 1.5 per cent.; carbon monoxide, 5.8 per cent.; benzine series, 5.0 per cent.; olefin series, 1.5 per cent.; paraffin series (including ethane, 9.8 per cent.), 82.4 per cent.; nitrogen and residual gas,



Roma Gas Bore on Fire.

3.4 per cent.; oxygen, .00 per cent.; hydrogen, .00 per cent. The illuminating properties of the gas was proved to be 24 candle-power, or 50 per cent. better than the London candle-power standard.

The following extracts are taken from the reports of Mr. W. E. Cameron, the Second Government Geologist:—" . . . .

The striking of gas a second time at about the same depth in even greater volume, after the flow in the No. 2 bore had been shut off, indicated the probability of considerable supplies in these strata, and led to renewed interest in the question of the possibility of its being connected with reservoirs of petroleum. . . . . As far as the evidence shows at present, there seems no geological reason why oil in large quantities should not be found in the Roma district, and at much shallower depths than those at which gas was struck in the Roma bore. The occurrence of this gas in quantity is a hopeful indication that deposits of oil also occur. The oil might be searched for by further sinking the present bore, or, preferably, by sinking a fresh bore a little to the south of the present bore."

With a view of fully testing the possibilities of Roma as an oil-bearing area, the Government has specially engaged an expert from America to put down another bore about 400 ft. in a west-south-west direction from the No. 3 bore. Special plant has been procured, and the expert is now engaged on his operations.

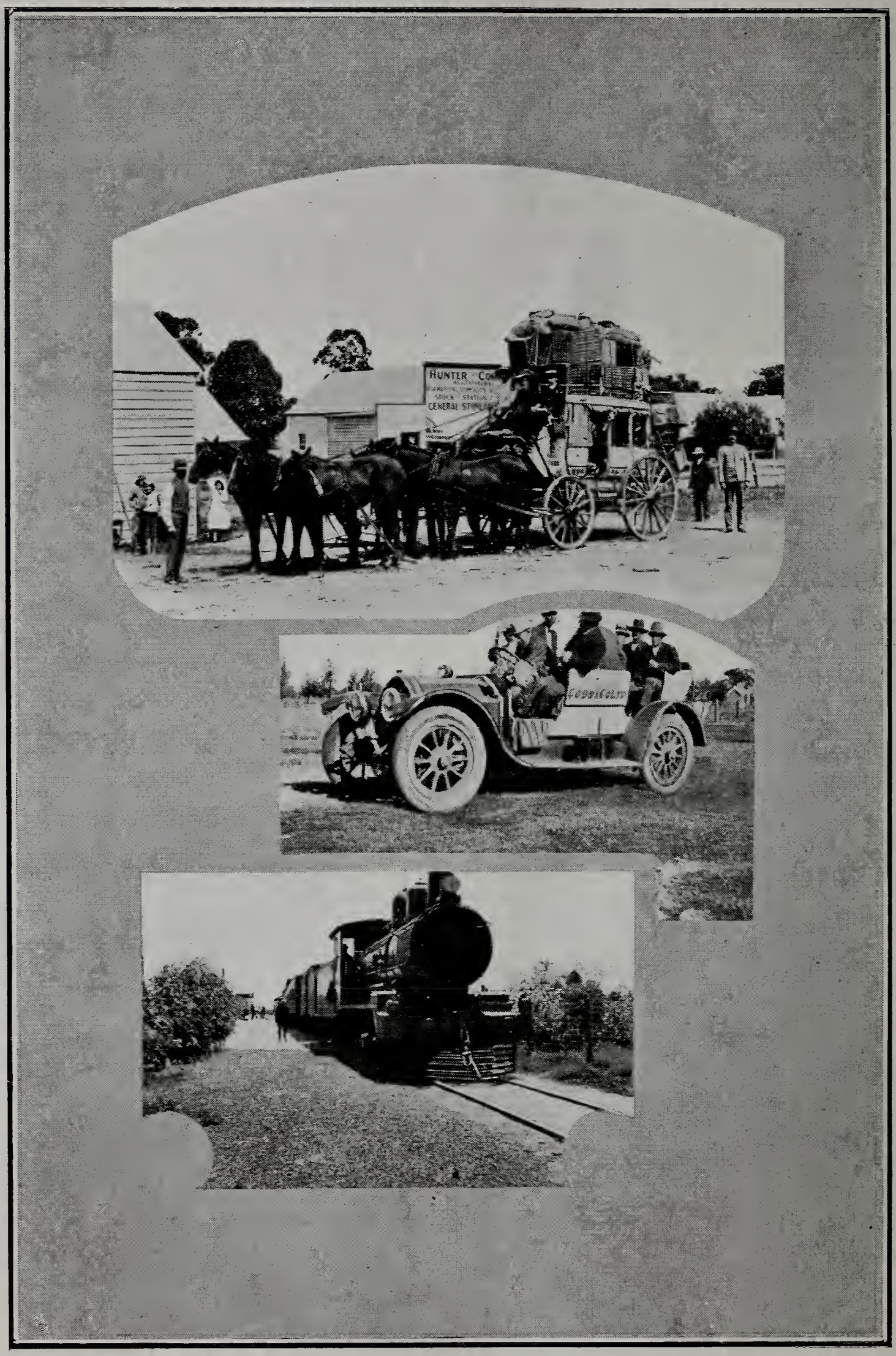
Several areas at Yingerbay, a short distance from Roma, are also likely to be tested by private concerns.

SECONDARY INDUSTRIES.

Most of the principal towns in the Maranoa District manufacture a good deal of their own requirements. For instance, there are tailoring, dressmaking, wagon and carriage, blacksmithing, printing, furniture and joinery, galvanised iron working and tinsmithing, engineering, and saddlery establishments, aerated waters and cordial factories, iceworks, butter factory (at Roma only), brickworks, portable wool-scours, motor garages, &c. All of these give employment to a fair number of people, and contribute their quota to the wealth of the country.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.

The educational requirements of the Maranoa District are well provided for; so much so, indeed, that every child within its territory can, without any difficulty, get a sound scholastic



Three Modes of Locomotion.
1. *Horse Coach at Yeulba.* 2. *Motor Coach at Thallon.*
3. *Train at Dirranbandi.*

training at the expense of the State. Parents are compelled, by law, to send their children to school. According to a return specially furnished by the Department of Public Instruction, there are 51 State Schools in the District. The children in the sparsely-populated areas, where no schools have been established, are visited, at stated periods during the year, by itinerant teachers, and given educational instruction. Four itinerant teachers are engaged in this work, each of whom visit certain areas at regular intervals each year.

The fact that children live in the backblocks of the State does not debar them in the slightest degree from availing themselves of the higher branches of education. Competitive examinations for Grammar School scholarships are held

State and High Schools, Roma.

annually, and all who obtain a 50 per cent. pass are entitled to free education, together with free board and accommodation for three years, at any of the Grammar Schools or colleges of the State. Furthermore, admission to the Queensland University is open to all children, who, while attending a secondary school, pass the junior or senior examinations held annually.

At Roma there is a High School, where students receive instruction in the higher forms of education. All the schools

throughout the District are well equipped, and many of them are built on the most modern ideas so far as ventilation and accommodation are concerned. In order to overcome the possibility of children being affected with blight troubles, the schools, in the fly-infested areas, are enclosed with fly-proof gauze on the doors, windows, and verandas. The State devotes much attention to the care of the eyes and the teeth of the children, each of the schools being regularly visited by qualified persons. Religious training is also imparted to the children attending the larger schools by visiting clergymen at stated periods every week. Much attention is given to the beautifying of the grounds of many of the schools by gardens. In Roma there is an admirably conducted Roman Catholic Convent School.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.

All the chief centres of population in the Maranoa District have, at least, one local governing body, which is vested with full powers to maintain and control the streets, roads, &c., within its boundaries. Taken on the whole, the streets and roads are in good order for all classes of vehicular traffic, and under ordinary circumstances residents in the outlying districts can reach the various towns without any difficulty.

Though electric light is installed in several of the large business establishments in the principal towns, acetylene gas is the more popular illuminant used. Iceworks are also established in several towns.

Sports and games are enthusiastically supported in all portions of the District. Every town and township has its own race club, and also athletic, cricket, football, tennis clubs, &c.

Places of amusement are to be found in most of the towns, and musical, dramatic, vaudeville, and moving pictures entertainments are generally received with much appreciation.

The principal religious denominations, friendly societies, and lodges are represented in the more populous towns.

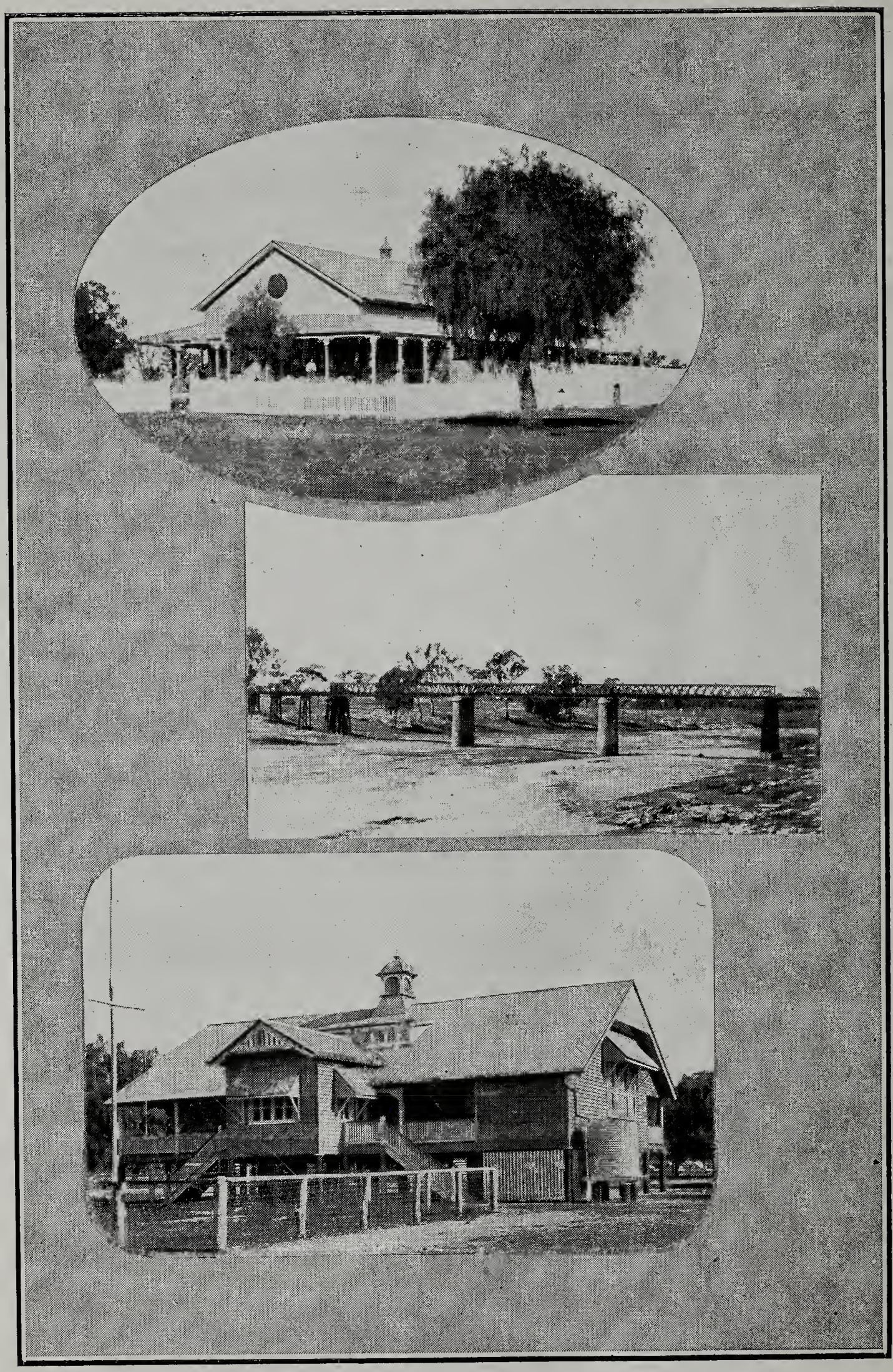
Motor-cars are very much in evidence in all parts of the District, and all the chief towns have one or more motor garages.

SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAYS.

The Maranoa District is exceedingly well supplied with railways, all the principal towns having direct communication with Brisbane, the capital of Queensland. In addition to these, lines extend westerly, south-westerly, and north-westerly. The length of the lines within the boundaries of the Maranoa District total 208 miles. One line—Roma to Orallo—is nearing completion, and will increase the total length by a further 30

Railway Station and Workshops, Roma.

miles. It is proposed to extend this last named line to Injune Creek—a distance of 31 miles. Further, the Government has decided to proceed with the construction of the Dalby-Tara line towards Surat (nearly 50 miles), and the Warwick-Dirranbandi line towards Woolerina (nearly 52 miles). Two other lines are projected, and are likely to be laid in the near future—from Dunwinnie (on the Warwick-Dirranbandi line) north-westerly to St. George, 46 miles; and from Wallumbilla (on the main South-Western line) northerly towards Durham Downs, 43 miles. The new lines, and those projected, will open up a large area of splendid agricultural and grazing country.



Three Mitchell Scenes.
1. *Shire Hall.* 2. *Railway Bridge over Maranoa River.*
3. *State School.*

The total length of the lines open for traffic in the whole of the State of Queensland to date is:—Government, 4,947 miles; private, 441 miles. There are also 456 miles under construction; and 1,640 miles approved, but not started.

Roma is not only "the capital" in the Maranoa District, but it is also the principal railway centre on the South-Western line. All the traffic of the South-West is controlled from Roma; consequently, it is one of the busiest railway centres in Queensland. The following particulars in regard to the traffic transactions were specially supplied by the Railway Department for the period between March, 1914, to March, 1915:—Wool despatched to Brisbane, 1,105 tons; sheep trucked, 72,656; cattle trucked, 12,339; agricultural produce, 1,412 tons; cargo (inward), 10,521 tons; (outward), 7,875 tons; passengers, 16,385.

CHIEF TOWNS IN THE MARANOA DISTRICT.

Roma,

"the capital" of the Maranoa District, is situated on Bungil Creek, and has an altitude of 979 feet above sea level. The area of the municipality is 25 square miles, and the population within its boundaries is estimated at 3,000. The streets, which are 37 miles in length, are wide, well-made, and present a very verdant and attractive appearance with the avenues of pepperinas. McDowall, Wyndham, and Hawthorne streets are the principal business centres. The solidity of the town is exemplified by the substantial character of its many public buildings and mercantile establishments. Many of the structures would do credit to the metropolis of Queensland. Though several of the public and mercantile edifices are constructed of brick, stone, or concrete blocks, the majority of them are built of wood. Included in the public buildings are:—Court House, Town Hall Buildings (an imposing structure), School of Arts, Railway Station and Workshops, Lands Office, Hospital, Hibernian Hall, Oddfellows' Hall, two Masonic Lodges (English and Scottish Constitutions), Post Office, State and Commonwealth Savings Banks, three banks, Anglican Church (a noble edifice constructed of concrete blocks), Roman Catholic Church, Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church, Salvation Army Temple,

Disciples of Christ Church, State High School, State School, Roman Catholic Convent and School, and a branch of the Technical College.

The public institutions include:—Town Council, Bungil Shire Council, Chamber of Commerce, Fire Brigade, and a branch of the Ambulance Brigade, Maranoa Club, Racing Club and racecourse, Municipal Baths, Western Queensland Pastoral and Agricultural Society and splendidly appointed show grounds, three Friendly Societies (Hibernians, Oddfellows, and Protestant Alliance), Roma Co-operative Dairy Company's Butter

McDowall Street, Roma, from Royal Hotel corner.

Factory and Iceworks, Dominion Flour Mill, sawmill, cricket, football, tennis, swimming, and bowling clubs, two open-air picture shows, two public halls, town band, orchestra, Eisteddfod, musical society, two garages, two newspapers (published twice weekly), recreation grounds, and Queen's Park (where sports and games of various kinds are indulged in regularly).

Roma is surrounded by a number of large sheep and cattle stations, Mount Abundance (a few miles distant) being one of the show places of the South-West. Close to the town there are three elevations—Grafton Range, Mounts Bassett and Beagle. A considerable amount of agriculture is carried on

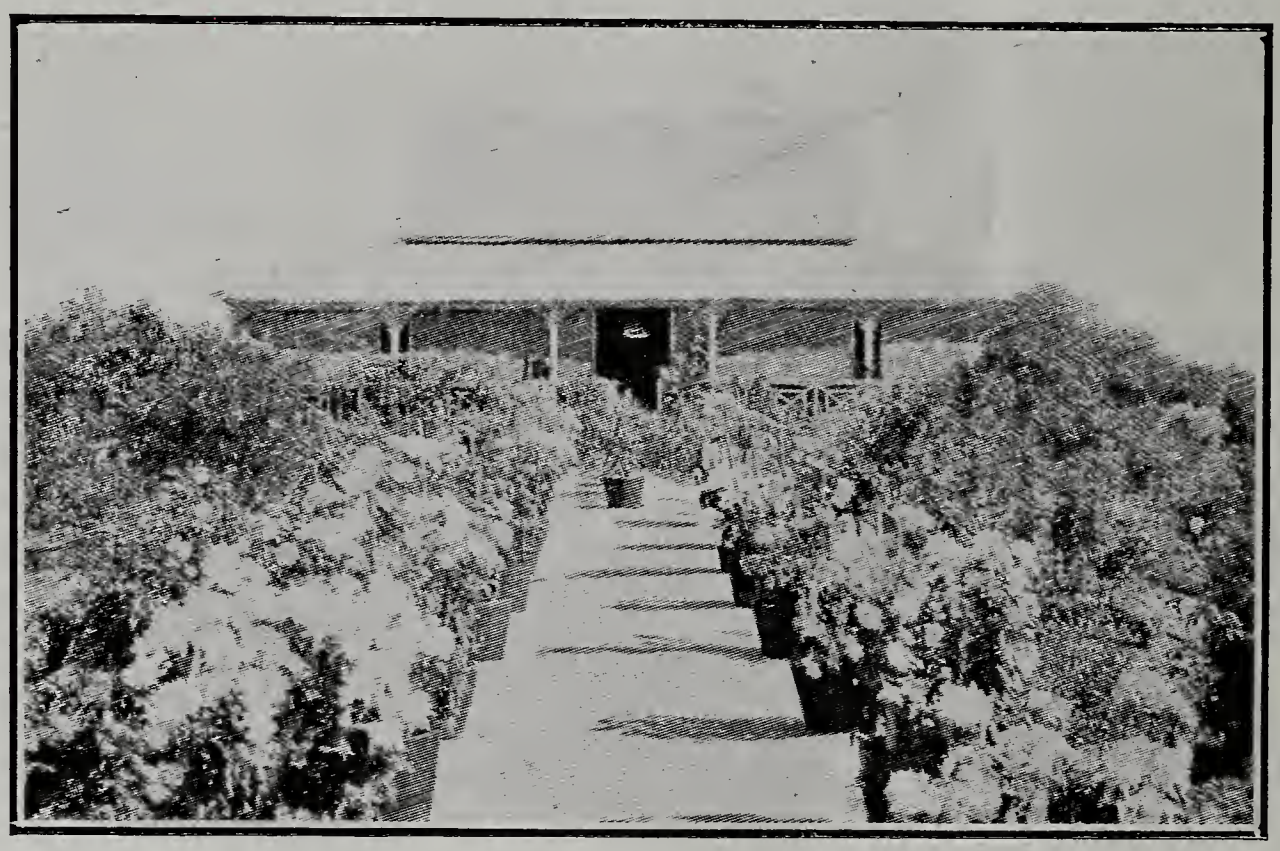
in the district, the principal crops grown being wheat, maize, grapes, fruits of all kinds, vegetables, &c. Dairying also engages much attention. Many of the wheat farms and vineyards are extensive in character, and the excellence of the prolific crops raised annually has earned for the district much prominence in the agricultural world. In point of fact, Roma grapes and wines are a household word throughout the Commonwealth. Within close proximity to the town there are large seams of coal and sandstone quarries, which will, possibly, be put to commercial use in the near future.

The town is progressive in every respect, and has, for years, enjoyed much prosperity. The railway station is a hive of much activity at all periods of the day. Climatically, conditions are decidedly healthy, as is evidenced by the low death rate and the satisfactory birth rate; in fact, Roma is regarded as one of the sanitoria of Queensland. There are a large number of very attractive private residences in the town and district, many of which are surrounded by nicely laid out gardens. Several of the residents cultivate date trees, which produce fruit of exceptional flavour. There are many picturesque spots in the district on Bungeworgorai, Eurombah, and Highland Plains Creeks, which are ideal picnicking grounds. All the creeks teem with fish—Murray cod, golden perch, bream, and eels. In Highland Plains Creek (Mount Hutton district) the barramundi is caught in large numbers. Feathered game—plain turkeys, ducks, &c.—abound in the district, and marsupials are found in fairly large numbers in the forests.

The water supply for the town is obtained from three artesian bores, the requirements for public and domestic purposes being secured through connecting mains. The bores are controlled by the Town Council. No. 1 bore has a depth of 1,678 ft., and a daily flow of 59,950 gallons; No. 2, depth of 3,710 ft., daily flow of 198,300 gallons; No. 3, depth of 3,715 ft., daily flow of 138,000 gallons. From the foregoing it will be seen that the total quantity of water available for town use is 293,250 gallons daily. In Nos. 2 and 3 bores gas was struck a few years ago, and for a short time the town was lighted therewith from No. 1 bore. The gas, however, gave out suddenly. The gas in the No. 3 bore became ignited, and burned fiercely

until it was extinguished. Steps are now under way to put down a fourth bore, in order to test whether oil exists in sufficient quantities to make it a paying proposition. [A brief description of the gas bores appears elsewhere in this book.] At present Roma is lighted chiefly by acetylene gas, while several business places have installed electric light. A movement is on foot to establish electric lighting works in the town.

There are a number of State schools in the district, which adequately supply the educational wants of the residents' children.



Hon. J. M. Hunter's Residence, Roma.
(*From an old photograph.*)

Roma is 318 miles north-west by rail from Brisbane.

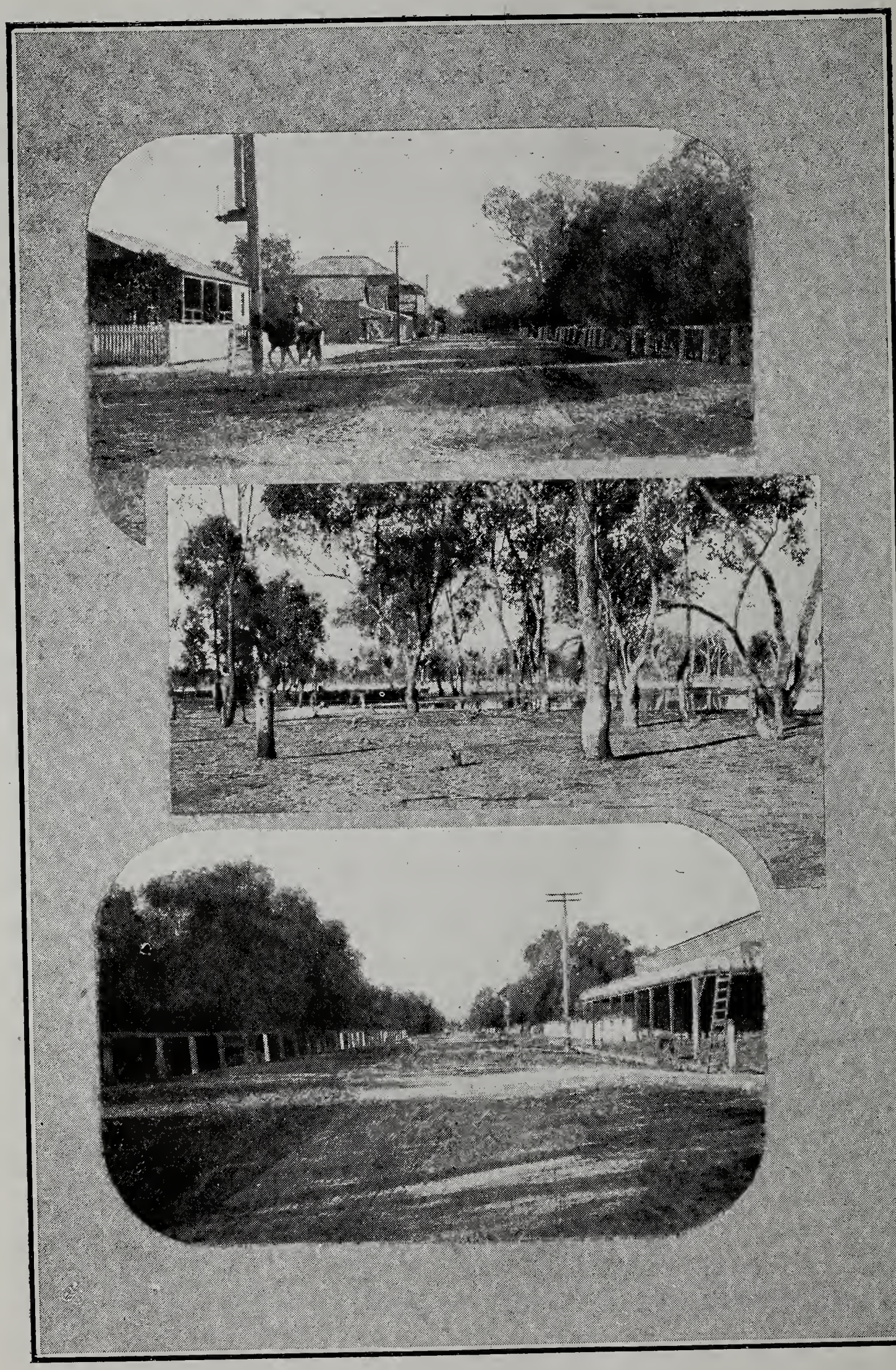
The Bungil Shire Council maintains the roads, &c., within its 4,263 square miles of territory.

Production of the district in 1914:—Sheep, 344,245; cattle, 90,015; horses, 11,075; pigs, 1,349; butter, 501,840 lbs.; wheat for grain, 79,569 bushels; maize, 3,176 bushels; pumpkins and melons, 244 tons; grapes, 1,552,320 lbs.; wine, 25,000 gallons; oranges, 2,313 bushels; hay, 787 tons; green fodder, £8,120; honey, 8,894 lbs.; ensilage, 210 tons; potatoes (English), 7 tons; (sweet), 1 ton; beeswax, 215 lbs.

Mitchell

is on the Maranoa River, and has an altitude of 1,106 feet above sea level. It is 372 miles by rail north-west from Brisbane, and 54 miles west from Roma. The population of the town is estimated at 1,000. The shire has an area of 8,373 square miles, and the streets within the town, which are named after universities, are wide, and planted with cedar, pepperina, and bottle trees on either side. The length of the streets total 23 miles, the principal street being called Cambridge. The town is the centre of large pastoral and agricultural activities, and matters commercially are very sound. The administration of local affairs are controlled by the Booringa Shire Council, which has a splendidly-fitted up hall and offices. There are many large sheep and cattle stations in the district. A good deal of country is under wheat and fruits of different kinds. In the town proper there are a number of well laid out orchards and market gardens, the crops being mostly raised by means of irrigation. Grapes, oranges, and vegetables do well in the district. The water supply is obtained from artesian and sub-artesian bores, both of which are under the control of the Shire Council. A proposal is on foot to reticulate the town with the water from the bores. The artesian bore has a depth of 1,405 feet, a daily flow of 205,000 gallons, a temperature of 98 degrees Fahr., and a pressure of 6.51 lb. to the square inch; while the sub-artesian bore, which has a depth of only 75 ft., gives an unlimited daily supply of water. A temporary shower bath has been erected at the principal bore for the convenience of the townspeople. That the town and district is healthy is abundantly proved by the fact that there are many hale and hearty residents, who have passed the allotted span of life, and are still able to do a strenuous day's work.

The public and commercial buildings are, on the whole, pretentious, and demonstrate that the town is of more than ordinary importance. Conspicuous among these structures are the Shire Hall, Post Office, Railway Station, Court House, Lands Office and State Savings Bank, School of Arts, Hospital, Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Methodist Churches, State School (built on the most modern ideas), open-air picture show, Masonic Hall, iceworks, cordial factory, &c. Other institutions



Three St. George Scenes.
1 *and* 3. *The Terrace.* 2. *Town Bore Lagoon.*

include:—Chamber of Commerce, Maranoa Agricultural and Pastoral Association and show grounds, two racing clubs and racecourse, rifle club, cricket, football, and tennis clubs, town band, recreation reserve, Masonic, Hibernian, and Oddfellows Lodges, sawmill, two motor garages, weekly newspaper, a branch of the Ambulance Brigade, several banks, and retail business places. Acetylene gas is mostly used for lighting purposes, but one or two shops use electric light.

Coaches run to and from St. George, Bollon, Westgrove, and Warrenville regularly every week.

Large coal seams exist in the beds of the Maranoa and Merivale Rivers, and there are also extensive quantities of asbestos at Mount Eddystone. So far nothing has been done to develop these mineral areas.

Cambridge Street, Mitchell.

Several of the deep holes in the Maranoa and Merivale Rivers teem with Murray cod, golden perch, and bream. Plain turkeys, duck, pigeons, native companions (brolgas), and emus are plentiful, also marsupials. Foxes are also found in places.

Production of the district in 1914:—Sheep, 637,761; cattle, 102,347; horses, 9,755; pigs, 288; farmers' butter, 950 lbs.; wheat for grain, 11,576 bushels; oats, 360 bushels; grapes, 6,230 lbs.; oranges, 412 bushels; hay, 212 tons; green fodder, £490.

St. George,

one of the most attractively laid out towns in Queensland, is on the banks of the Balonne River, and has an altitude of 650 feet above sea level. It is 127 miles south-west by road from Yeulba Railway Station, about 52 miles north-west from Thallon Railway Station, and 408 miles and 429 miles west respectively by the two different railway services from Brisbane. The town has a population of about 800. The streets are wide, and are planted with avenues of pepperina, jacaranda, and cedar trees, the effect being very picturesque, indeed. A beautiful esplanade on the south-east bank of the Balonne River—a splendid stretch of water—is called "The Terrace," and is the principal business thoroughfare. The town and district is controlled by the Balonne Shire Council, the area within its boundaries being 21,639 square miles. There are four miles of well-made streets, which are laid out in squares. An artesian bore, from which mains have been laid, supplies the water for town requirements, and also for the public plunge and shower baths. The bore has a depth of 2,708 feet, a daily flow of 337,000 gallons, a temperature of 135 degrees Fahr., and a pressure of over 100 lbs. to the square inch.

St. George is surrounded by a number of large sheep and cattle stations. Mixed farming, dairying, and fruit growing is also carried on, but only on a small scale. The possibilities in these directions for expansion are considerable, for the soil, which is exceptionally fertile, will produce all kinds of crops. The district is particularly well adapted for fruit culture, and the plentiful supply of water in the Balonne River emphasises the practicableness of the adoption of irrigation on a large scale. In point of fact, many of the market gardeners and orchardists are at present raising crops by this modern means. Wheat also does well, the yields therefrom being very satisfactory, indeed, whenever favourable meteorological conditions prevail.

Among the public and commercial institutions, which call for special mention, are the Shire Hall, Court House, Lands Office, State Savings Bank, Post Office, Hospital, State School, School of Arts, Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Presbyterian Churches, Fire Brigade, dramatic, musical, and debating societies, pastoral and agricultural society and show grounds,

two racing clubs and racecourse, polo grounds, recreation reserve, town band, cricket, football, tennis, swimming, boating, gun, and athletic clubs, two public halls, one newspaper (published twice weekly), two picture shows, two motor garages, iceworks, two sawmills, and friendly societies. The majority of the business places are lighted by acetylene gas.

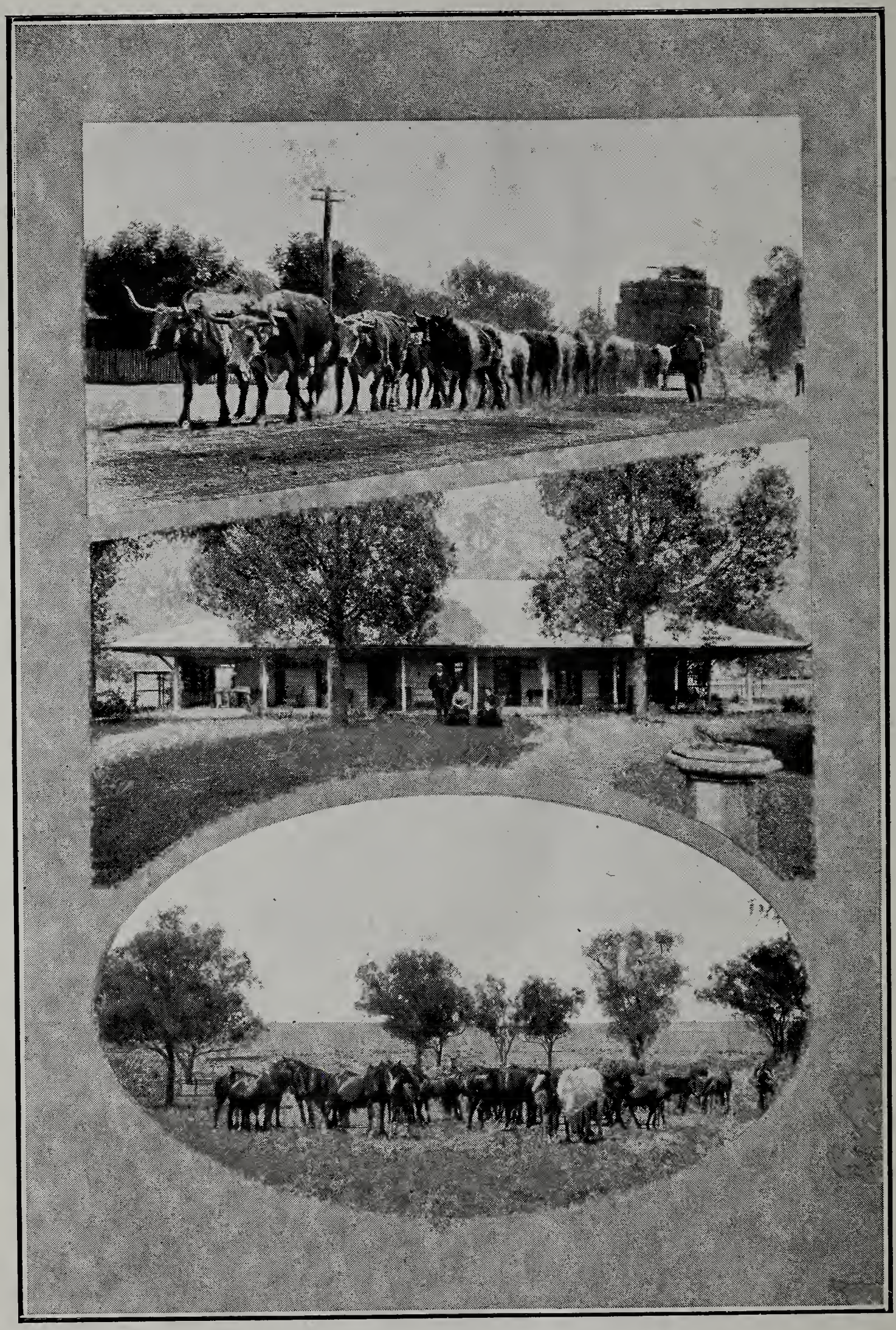
A good deal of boating is done on the Balonne River, particularly along the town reaches. Fishing for Murray cod, bream, dew, golden perch, and eels is also popular.

Stephenson Street, Yeulba.

Horse coaches run regularly to and from Surat and Yeulba, Mitchell, and Thallon. A motor coach also runs to and from Thallon railway station.

It is projected to connect St. George by rail with Dunwinnie (on the Warwick-Dirranbandi line), and when this is brought about the town should go ahead by leaps and bounds.

Production of district in 1914:—Sheep, 983,512; cattle, 25,855; horses, 7,636; pigs, 217; farmers' butter, 972 lbs.; hay, 54 tons; pumpkins and melons, 25 tons; grapes, 16,450 lbs.; oranges, 984 bushels; potatoes (English), 9 tons; (sweet), 2 tons.



1. *Wool Team on road to Roma.* 2. *Mount Abundance Homestead, Roma.* 3. *Blood Mares and Foals on Mount Abundance Station.*

Yeulba,

one of the oldest towns in Queensland, is on Yeulba Creek, and is 37 miles east of Roma and 281 north-west of Brisbane. It is connected with both places by rail, and is 987 feet above sea level. The area of the Bendemere Shire is 1,720 square miles, and the town has a population of about 500. Cattle and horses are chiefly bred in the district, and a number of mixed farmers devote some attention to the raising of sheep. Wheat, maize, lucerne, and all kinds of fruits do well. The owner of Bendemere Station is experimenting with the breeding of ostriches on a small scale. Several market gardens and orchards are carried on by means of irrigation successfully. The district is also suitable for dairying, and many of the settlers are doing well in this direction.

The principal public and commercial institutions are:—Post Office, State School, Court House, Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches, Public Hall, Bendemere Shire Council Office, branch of the Ambulance Brigade, two sawmills, carriage works, many stores, Progress Association, racing, athletic, cricket, football, and tennis clubs, racecourse, and recreation reserve. Most of the business places are lighted with acetylene gas.

Two coaches run to and from Surat and St. George weekly.

Production of the district in 1914:—Sheep, 1,244; cattle, 15,865; horses, 1,498; pigs, 48; farmers' butter, 1,302 lbs.; grapes, 4,000 lbs.; wheat for grain, 504 bushels; maize, 24 bushels; green fodder, £255.

Surat,

a rising township on the Balonne River, is 47 miles south-west from Yeulba railway station, 50 miles south of Roma, and 328 miles north-west of Brisbane. The area of the territory comprised within the Warroo Shire is 5,091 square miles, and the population of the township is estimated at 300. It has an altitude of 820 feet above sea level, and is a very healthy locality. Sheep and cattle raising are extensively carried on in the district. A little mixed farming, dairying, fruit-growing, and market gardening is also engaged in. The streets are wide, and are planted with Bauhinia trees, which look very pretty when in flower.

The public institutions consist of Post Office, Court House and Lands Office, School of Arts, Hospital, Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches, State School, Warroo Shire Council, Shire Hall, bank, several stores, sawmill, two racing clubs, cricket, tennis, and athletic clubs, Progress Association, town band, Oddfellows' Lodge, and a racecourse. The business places are lighted with acetylene gas. Water for domestic and other purposes is pumped from the river.

Murray cod, bream, silver and golden perch, and dew are caught in large numbers in the Balonne River, and plain and scrub turkeys, duck, black swans, pigeons, emus, and native companions are plentiful in the district. Marsupials are also found in large numbers.

Mr. R. E. Nimmo's Farm, Wallumbilla.

When Surat is connected by rail with the Dalby-Tara line, the township, which has great fruit-growing and mixed farming possibilities, will, without doubt, become a very busy centre. Several of the settlers on the banks of the river are growing fruit and vegetables by means of irrigation. The line from Tara towards Surat is now under construction.

Production of the district in 1914:—Sheep, 561,098; cattle, 23,009; horses, 4,011; pigs, 46; farmers' butter, 300 lbs.; green fodder, £125.

Wallumbilla,

a thriving agricultural and dairying district, is on Wallumbilla Creek, and is 24 miles west from Roma and 294 miles north-west from Brisbane, with both of which places it is connected by rail. The town has a population of about 1,200. It is the largest wheat-growing and dairying district in the Maranoa. The soil is exceptionally fertile, and the future possibilities of the locality are, practically, unlimited. There are large areas of splendid agricultural land in the Chadforth district awaiting development. The projected line from Wallumbilla towards Durham Downs will, when constructed, open up some very fine agricultural and grazing lands for settlement. There are several Government artesian and sub-artesian bores in the district.

The public and commercial institutions include:—Post Office, Court House, State School, large Government Grain Stores, Public Hall, Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist, and Christ Churches, bank, many stores, sawmill, Progress Association, cricket, tennis, racing, and athletic clubs. The business places are lighted with acetylene gas. Wallumbilla has an altitude of 1,019 feet above sea level.

Other Small Townships.

Among other small townships, which call for passing mention, are:—Amby (1,136 feet), a thriving pastoral and agricultural district, with a population of about 300; Muckadilla (1,170 feet), pastoral district, and also noted for its rheumatism-curing thermal baths, population about 200; Mungallala (1,389 feet), pastoral district (all of the foregoing places are on the main South-Western line to the westward of Roma), population about 300; Bollon (630 feet), 148 miles south-westerly by coach route from Mitchell, large pastoral district carrying (in 1914) 627,285 sheep, 66,312 cattle, and 5,762 horses, population about 200; Thallon (570 feet), pastoral and agricultural district, population about 250; and Dirranbandi (558 feet), pastoral district, population about 150 (both connected by rail with Warwick and Brisbane; Hebel (about 54 miles from Dirranbandi), pastoral district, population about 250. The highest point in the Maranoa District is at Dulbydilla, which is 93 miles from Roma, and 411 miles from Brisbane; the altitude at this spot is 1,445 feet above sea level.

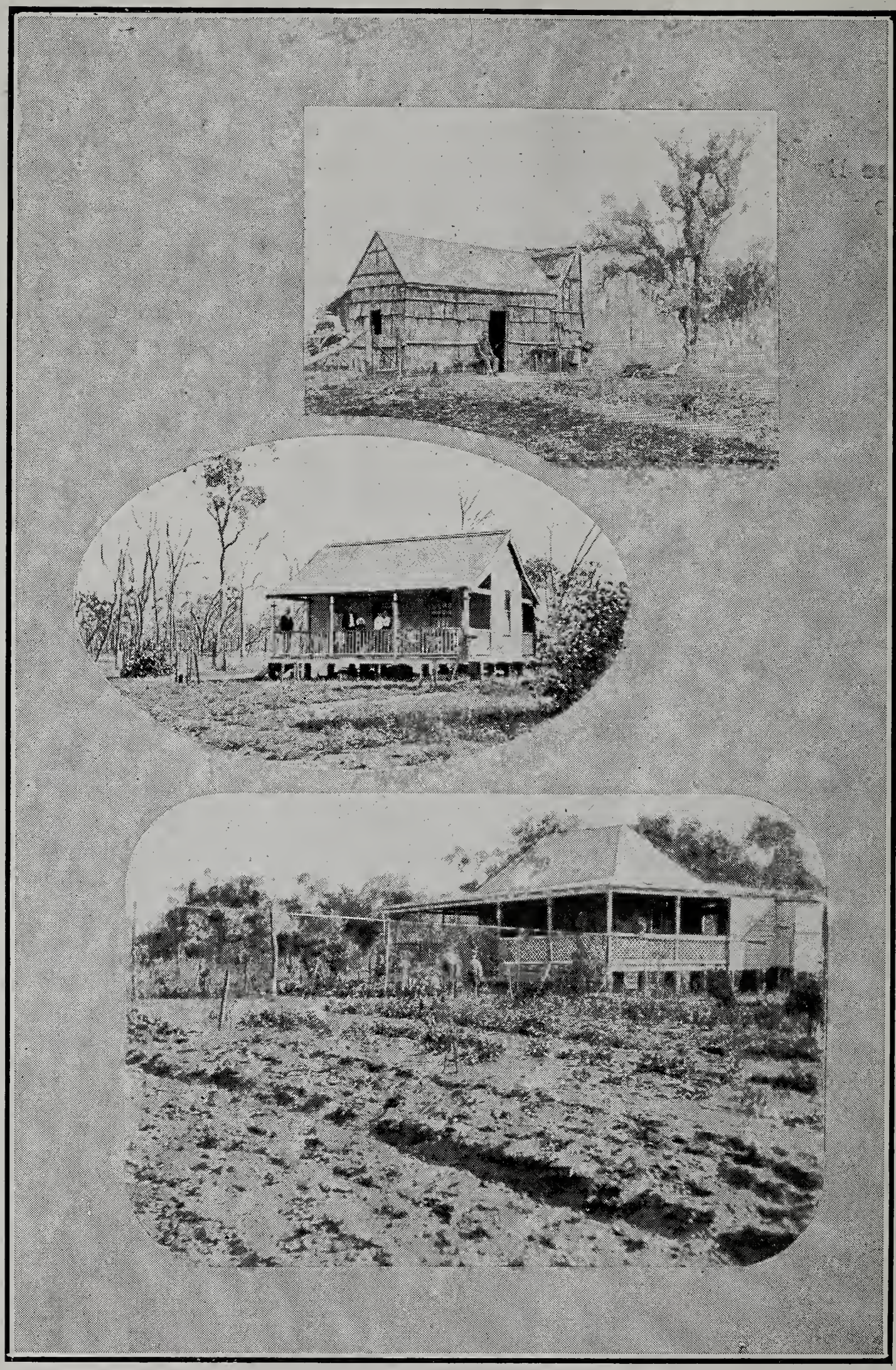
EXPERIENCES OF SETTLERS.

On the occasion of a recent tour through the Maranoa District, the Compiler of this book interviewed over one hundred settlers in regard to their experiences since their advent in the District. It is impossible, however, to publish the whole of these in this book. The cases instanced will demonstrate most emphatically how men endowed with courage, determination, grit, perseverance, and thrift carved out comfortable homes for themselves in the back-blocks of Queensland, even under the most adverse circumstances. There is room for thousands of others to do likewise to-day under conditions more favourable than those of yesterday.

McDowall Street, Roma, from Police Station.

Mr. J. G. Brompton, of Plain Farm, Hodgson, Roma district, is one of the most successful wheat-growers and mixed farmers in Queensland. He arrived in the State from Croft (Lincolnshire, England), in 1883. After paying his passage as an immigrant, he had very little money left in his purse. In fact, when he obtained employment on the Roma-Mitchell Railway line, he was 25s. in debt. For six years he worked as a navvy, and during that time he saved money. Later, he and his two

brothers (Herbert and William) took up a homestead selection of 160 acres from the Crown at 2s. 6d. per acre, the payments extending over five years. Though he lived on the selection, he still continued to work on the railway line. His two brothers, who lived with him, improved the selection. In 1889 he devoted the whole of his attention to farming, and 6 acres of land were ploughed and put under wheat. Later, he rented two blocks of land, which his brothers had taken up; subsequently he purchased these properties at 20s. per acre. From the outset he did well on the land. About 1898 a co-operative flour mill was established in Roma, and gave a decided fillip to the wheat-growing industry. Additional areas were acquired by Mr. Brompton. He started operations with a few sheep, and had no luck. He, however, persevered, with the result that success attended his efforts. To-day he combines sheep breeding and wheat-growing, and is doing well in these directions. He has 1,000 head of merino sheep at present on his holding of 1,267 acres, and 900 of them averaged 7 lb. of wool when shorn. Over 200 were sold, and realised 9s. per head off the shears. In 1914, he had 270 acres under wheat, 50 acres of which were grazed, 70 acres were cut for hay, and 150 acres harvested for grain. The last-named yielded 3,168 bushels of grain. He sent 3,018 bushels to the Roma flour mill, and kept 150 bushels for seed purposes. From the mill he received 4s. 6d. per bushel. The crop gave a return of 20 bushels per acre. Until four years ago Mr. Brompton devoted some attention to dairying, and sent his cream to the factory. He estimates the cost of cultivating and harvesting wheat in the Roma district at 37s. per acre; receipts per acre, £4 10s.; profit per acre, £2 13s. Mr. Brompton is a strong advocate of dry farming. He keeps the soil loose, and free from weeds. In point of fact, he runs his sheep on the cultivation areas in order to keep them clear of weeds. He has a very comfortable home, and has a small herd of milkers for his own use. The young stock are sold to the butcher. That he makes a good living out of farming is exemplified by the following figures taken from his books:—Receipts for 1914: wool, £168 11s.; cattle, £61 15s.; sheep, £30; wheat, £664 7s.; chaff, £512; total, £1,436 13s. His expenditure for the same year totalled £700, leaving a profit on the year's transactions of £735 13s.



1. *Thomas Bros.' First Home at Orallo, Roma District.*
2. *Selector's Home at St. George.*
3. *Mr. I. Giddin's Home, Yeulba.*

Mr. J. H. Harland, of Grapeview Vineyard, Bungeworgorai, Roma district, has been sixteen years on the present holding. He is a native of the district, and for years worked on Bassett's vineyard. With £50, he acquired, on easy terms, 55 acres of land, portion of which was under vines. There was also a small house on the property. Success attended his exertions from the beginning, and he gradually increased his area. To-day he has 433 acres, 16 acres being under grapes, and 1 acre under oranges, peaches, and apricots. He has now a very comfortable

Stripping Wheat on Bungeworgorai State Farm, Roma.

home. In 1914 he sold his crop of grapes in Brisbane and Toowoomba, and realised £250. The other fruits returned £30. The profit for the year was £356, and averages about £300 under normal conditions. He employs labour in the grape-picking season, but does all the cultivation work himself. Mr. Harland is also a maker of excellent sweet and dry wines, which sell readily in the local market. He makes from 1,600 gallons to 2,000 gallons annually.

Mr. J. W. Aisthorpe, of Boxvale Farm, Hodgson, Roma district, only had about £23 in hard cash when he arrived in

Queensland in August, 1889, from Lincolnshire (England). Now he has 160 acres of freehold at Hodgson, and about 400 acres rented on Clark's Creek. At first he worked on the railway line for twelve months, then on Bindango Station wool-rolling for a season, and then for fourteen months with a neighbouring farmer. In 1891 he selected 80 acres of open forest and plain country from the Crown at 2s. 6d. per acre. During the first year he cleared and planted 14 acres with wheat, and erected a house. Every year he increased the area under wheat, and also went in for dairying with grade Shorthorns, Ayrshires, and Jerseys. Five years ago he relinquished dairying, and devoted all his attention to wheat-growing. Occasionally he undertook contracts for tank-sinking on stations. In 1914 he had 135 acres under wheat, and obtained 1,050 bushels of grain therefrom, for which he realised 4s. 6d. per bushel. He cut about 100 acres for grain, and the balance (35 acres) for hay. The crop yielded 10½ bushels of grain per acre. In 1913 Mr. Aisthorpe commenced sheep-raising, and crossed the merino with the Romney Marsh strain. He has now a flock of 470. The clip returned 1,500 lb. of wool. The wheat is harvested with a stripper and winnower. The receipts in 1914 aggregated £400, and the expenditure about £200, leaving a profit of £200.

Mr. J. Telford, of Glenmaggie Farm, Orallo, Roma district, was previously farming at Tenterfield (New South Wales). He arrived in the Roma district four years ago with £1,000, and a dairy herd of Shorthorns. He has 1,280 acres in his present holding. During the first year he cleared 15 acres, and went in for dairying and raising cattle for the butcher. Though the district was admirably suitable for dairying, he was compelled to desist from this occupation owing to lack of railway communication with the Roma Butter Factory. In 1914 he had 10 acres under wheat, one plot of 6 acres averaging 15 bushels per acre, and the other 4 acres (on a rainfall of 25 points after sowing) yielding 9 bushels to the acre. Four acres of maize produced 15 bushels to the acre. He has also a splendid crop of Rhodes grass. Mr. Telford considers that the district cannot be excelled for wheat, maize, fruit (particularly grapes and oranges), dairying, and sheep raising; in fact, it is all that is required for mixed farming. The opening up of the country as

far as Injune Creek will bring about considerable agricultural development. Mr. Telford has three married sons in the district, each of whom are doing well on the land.

Mr. W. J. Dray, formerly a shearing mechanic, settled at Orallo, Roma district, eighteen years ago. At first he took up an agricultural homestead of 320 acres from the Crown at 2s. 6d. per acre. In 1902 he selected 636 acres at 10s. per acre, and six years later a further area of 1,420 acres were acquired at 10s. per acre. When he arrived in the district he had less than £100, a few horses, and some farming implements. He, however, had a stout heart, brawny muscles, and four strapping

Municipal Buildings, Roma.

sons. In the first year he cleared 10 acres of dense forest, and planted it with wheat, which yielded 24 bushels per acre. A like area was planted with maize subsequently, the return therefrom being 16 bushels per acre. The following year 40 acres were planted with wheat, the crop averaging 24 bushels per acre. The maize crop of 10 acres was only a partial success. In 1903, he had 80 acres of wheat, which yielded as high as 40 bushels per acre. In 1910, he obtained only 630 bushels from

110 acres of wheat. Mr. Dray also breeds sheep, and is meeting with much success in this direction. He has now a flock of 1,836, besides 50 head of beef cattle of the Shorthorn-Hereford strain. The country, at the time of the Compiler's visit, was carrying a beast to about 1¼ acres. Like Mr. Telford, he is well satisfied with the possibilities of the district. He says that anyone with grit and determination could, under favourable meteorological conditions, make £1,000 annually on country similar to his own. The flats on Bungeworgorai Creek are suitable for the cultivation of lucerne.

Mr. Alex. Fortune, of Lyndean Farm, Yingerbay, was previously a carpenter. He has 3,200 acres of country, about 500 acres being freehold. It is twenty-three years since he settled in the district. He came from Berwickshire (Scotland) fifty years ago, and started farming with only a few hundred pounds sterling. Shortly after his arrival in Queensland he was employed as a carpenter; subsequently taking up land in the Coomera district (South Coast line), where he cultivated sugar-cane for about ten years. When he settled at Yingerbay, he cleared about 10 acres of forest country, and cultivated it. As years went on he increased his areas. According to his records, the rainfall ranged 10.5 inches to 38.49 inches over a period of twenty-two years. From 10 acres of maize in 1893-94, he obtained 40 bushels per acre, and at later periods he had from 24 to 33 bushels per acre from plots of 20 acres. In 1912, he had 220 acres of wheat, which averaged 10 bushels per acre. In 1914, 80 acres yielded 7 bushels per acre. Grapes and potatoes (English and sweet) are grown for his own requirements. He also milks a few cows, and breeds pigs on a small scale. Mr. Fortune has 120 head of beef Shorthorns, and 30 head of saddle and draught horses. He has a very comfortable home, which he erected himself. Despite that he is eighty years of age, Mr. Fortune is still hale and hearty, and able to do a hard day's work. Thanks to his energy and thrift in his early days, he is able to spend the evening of his life in ease and comfort.

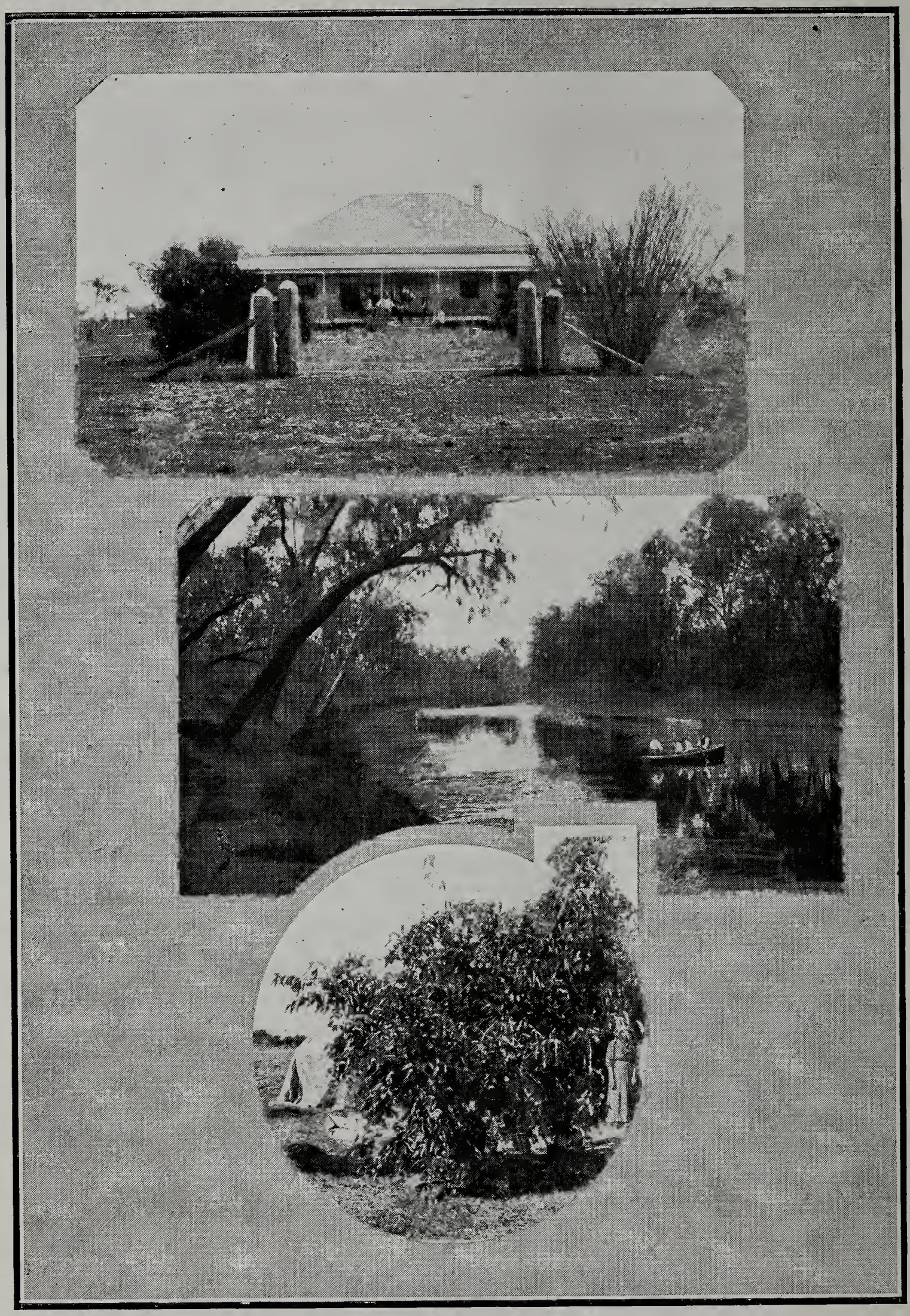
Mr. James Stinson, of Comyndale Farm, Cattle Creek, Roma district, hails from Fermanagh (Ireland), and has been twenty-six years in the district. He arrived in Queensland with about £15. For sixteen years he worked on Mount Abundance Station.

Then he purchased 160 acres of land at 35s. per acre on easy terms. After erecting a home, he cleared 40 acres, and planted it with wheat. The first crop was only a fair one. Further areas were cleared and planted with wheat each year. He has now 73 acres out of 1,100 acres cleared. In 1914, he had 60 acres of wheat, of which 20 acres were cut for hay, and the 40 acres returned 12 bushels per acre. For about seven years he has been dairying with satisfactory results. The herd, which numbers twenty-five, consists of grade Jerseys and Shorthorns. He breeds saddle and draught horses, and also pigs. "Globe Wood," the pedigreed trotting stallion, is his property. Mr.

Mrs. P. Smith's Vineyard and Orchard, Northern Road, Roma.

Stinson is a prosperous man, and has a comfortable home. The property is watered by Cattle Creek, and there are several large dams and tanks for the conservation of water.

Messrs. Zumpe Bros., of Avondale Farm, Northern road, Roma, are natives of Queensland, and have lived in the district for thirty years. Their parents came from Germany with £25 a little over forty years ago. Their holding of 1,200 acres was purchased at from 2s. 6d. to 20s. per acre. The greater part of the clearing on the farm was done by contract. During the first year 20 acres were put under wheat, and the crop produced



1. *Weribone Homestead, Surat.* 2. *Gundy Lagoon, Basin Downs Grazing Farm, Surat.* 3. *Persimmon Tree in fruit, Mr. J. Miles' Orchard, St. George.*

40 bushels per acre. Increased areas in subsequent years gave a return of from 10 to 16 bushels per acre. Varying success attended their efforts during succeeding years, the average yields per acre ranging from 8 bushels to 20 bushels. Messrs. Zumpe Bros. have a small orchard, the fruits comprising grapes, plums, and peaches. For years beef Shorthorns have been bred for market. A small herd of Jerseys are milked for home requirements. Draught horses and pigs are also bred for the same purpose. The house is large and comfortable. The receipts from all sources in 1914 totalled £1,000.

Mr. W. Auchter, of St. John's Park Farm, Northern road, Roma, had only enough money to pay the first instalment on his farm when he settled in the district. He, however, obtained employment on neighbouring farms, and in his spare time cleared his own. As soon as he was able to save sufficient money, he employed men to clear his own land. For years he has been growing wheat successfully, though he had a few failures. In 1914, he had 150 acres of wheat, of which 100 acres were harvested for grain, and 50 acres cut for hay. The grain yielded 10 bushels per acre. As a market gardener, Mr. Auchter has had much success for years past. His receipts from this source alone in 1915 amounted to £100, and his total income was £470. For wheaten chaff he obtained £6 per ton.

Mr. J. Neill, of Frogmoor Grazing Farm, Yeulba-Surat road, Surat district, came from the Castlemaine district (Victoria) with £400. Previously he was a wheat-grower. He has 5,000 acres in his holding. The agricultural farm he purchased at from 10s. to 12s. 6d. per acre, and the grazing farm of 1,700 acres at 1¼d. per acre. For fifteen years he was breeding beef Shorthorns and horses, and later sheep. He lost heavily during the big drought, and was compelled to borrow money in order to stock up again. In 1903, he had 10 acres of wheat, from which he got 3 tons of hay. In 1914, he shore 2,800 sheep, and received 14¼d. per lb. for the greasy wool. At present he has a small herd of milking Shorthorns, and a number of horses of his own breeding. The country is well watered with lagoons, the Balonne River, and Beranga Creek. He has a comfortable home, and is doing splendidly. Mr. Neill considers the locality one of the finest districts for mixed farming.

Mr. A. G. Nason, of Newington Grazing Farm, Surat, started with £375 and 500 sheep, and 6,000 acres in his holding. All the improvements on the farm were effected by himself, including the erection of a very comfortable home. When he took up the country it would not carry a sheep to 10 acres. To-day it carries a beast to 3 acres. This has been brought about by ringbarking and subdividing the holding into paddocks. He was a heavy loser during the big drought. In 1904 he recovered, and stocked up again. Since then he has been very successful. In 1910 (the best year) the clip from each sheep averaged 8 lb.

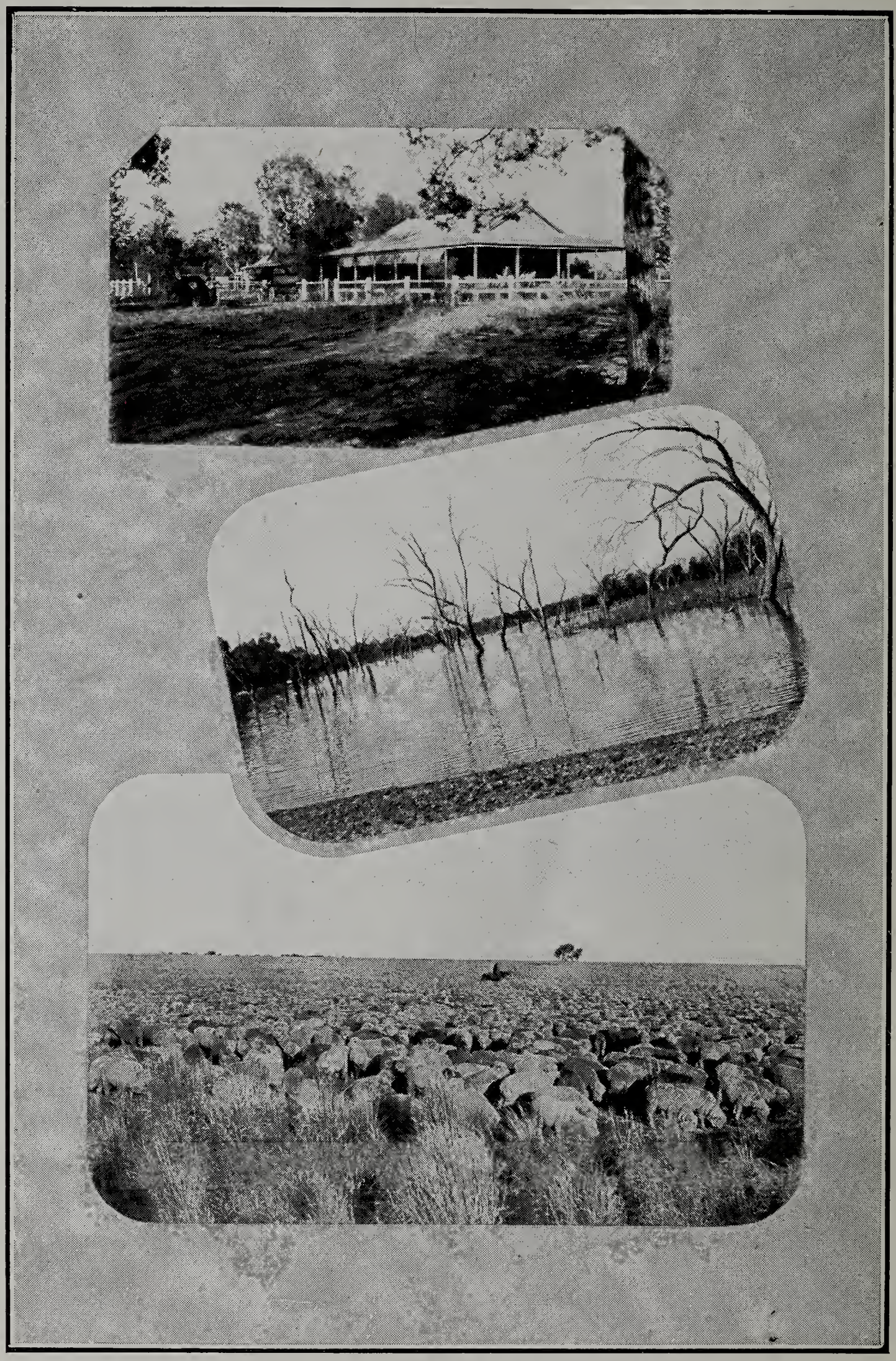
The Terrace, St. George.

In 1914, he shore 3,000 sheep, which averaged 7½ lb. of wool each. This year (1915) the same number of sheep averaged 7¾ lb. of wool each. He has a small herd of Shorthorn milkers, and also breeds the horses required on the holding. Four years ago he went in for wheat-growing on the share system, and got 900 bushels of grain from 80 acres. Mr. Nason considers that the prospects of success in the district are splendid under normal conditions. It is the right place for grazing farmers. He has managed to save money. "If one is thrifty and willing to work," he says, "he cannot fail to do well."

Messrs. Wolbank and Davidson, of Surat, started five years ago as market gardeners and orchardists with £40 on 30 acres of

land. To-day they are making from £200 to £400 annually from their operations. In 1914, their receipts totalled £220, and this year they expect to make £400. They have 1½ acres under citrus and stone fruits, and 2½ acres under vegetables. This year they are putting a much larger area under other crops. The crops are grown by irrigation, the water being lifted by a pump (driven by an oil engine) from the Balonne River, and distributed over the cultivation areas by means of galvanised iron piping. Two large overhead galvanised iron tanks are used for the storage of water.

Mr. John Tebbs, of Outlands Orchard, St. George, came from the Hawkesbury River district (New South Wales) with only £15, and has been fruit-growing and general farming for seven years. Seventeen years ago he took up 160 acres for grazing purposes. For three years he was employed as chainman for a surveyor. Then he married, and erected a home on his farm; and then was engaged in carrying for five years. With the money he saved, he bought horses, and went in for breeding them on a farm of 428 acres, which he leased. Later he acquired an additional 204 acres for grazing purposes. Subsequently he obtained a loan from the State Agricultural Bank, and purchased the 428 acres, which was under fruit trees and had a good house on it, for £900. He has now 848 acres of freehold. A good deal of the land, which he purchased from the Crown for 10s. per acre, was thickly infested with prickly-pear. It is now free from the pest. He has 7 acres under fruit trees—oranges, grapes, apples, pears, figs, plums, peaches, persimmons, nectarines, and apricots. About 25 acres are annually put under rotation crops—wheat, maize, potatoes (English and sweet), and vegetables. In 1904, he got 35 bushels of wheat from a small area. The district, he contends, will produce 35 bushels per acre under anything like fair meteorological conditions. In 1913, he obtained 10 tons of hay from 14 acres of wheat; and, in 1914, ¾ acre yielded 2¼ tons of English potatoes, ¼ acre of Swede turnips produced 2 tons, ½ acre of pumpkins returned 2¼ tons, and he cut 54 dozen cabbages from a ½ acre plot. The fruit crop during the same year returned £114. He made a nett profit of £195 from all sources in 1914. Mr. Tebbs has a small milking herd of Shorthorns, and breeds his own horses. The fruit crop is sold in Brisbane and the principal Western



1. *Moorenbah Homestead, Dirranbandi.* 2. *Town Bore Lagoon, St. George.* 3. *Sheep on Moorenbah Station, Dirranbandi.*

towns, while the vegetables are disposed of locally. Being a strong advocate of irrigation, he raises his fruit crop in this scientific way. The water is lifted from the Balonne River by a steam pump, then carried through steel piping for a distance of 13 chains to the orchard. Then it is run into drains, which intersect the orchard. He estimates the cost of irrigation at about 3s. per acre. Mr. Tebbs claims that he has grown the largest melon in Australia in his orchard, its weight being 79¼ lbs. He also raised a cabbage weighing 49¾ lbs. He suffered severely from the big drought, and was £327 in debt as a consequence. This was soon liquidated, and now he is more prosperous. The country, he says, is all that is required for dairying and mixed farming. If the settler is prepared to work hard, he can attain success on a small block of land.

Mr. J. Tebb's Orchard, St. George.

Mr. Ernest Klinge, of Welcome Home Orchard, St. George, was formerly a blacksmith, and is now demonstrating most conclusively what can be done by means of irrigation on a small area. He has only 5 acres, and of this 3 acres are under oranges, peaches, apricots, plums, quinces, pears, nectarines, figs, grapes, and vegetables. From 2 acres of wheat he obtained 2 tons of hay. A 12-year-old orange tree yielded a crop of 100 dozen in 1914. The water for irrigation purposes is obtained from a well by means of a windmill, and distributed over the orchard by fluming and galvanised iron piping.

Mr. H. A. Robertson, of Ivy Cottage, St. George, has been growing fruit and vegetables successfully for the past twenty years on his 3 acre block by irrigation. For four years in succession he has carried off first honours at the local show for maize, which was grown on another holding of his in the district. He was also a grower of wheat. He is now 88 years of age, and finds pleasure and profit in tending his small orchard. Grapes, oranges, peaches, and plums are chiefly raised. One orange tree frequently yields a crop of 110 dozen.

Mr. J. Miles, of Riverview Orchard, St. George, purchased the present holding quite recently for £600 as a going concern. There are 40 acres cleared, and ready for the plough. The orchard, which consists of oranges, peaches, apricots, plums, persimmons, grapes, quinces, pears, apples, &c., has been established for about six years. Mr. Miles was formerly a well-sinker in the Mungindi district. The crops are grown by irrigation, the water being obtained from the Balonne River by a steam pump. It is then carried through galvanised iron piping into long lengths of fluming, and then transferred to drains intersecting the orchard. Riverview Orchard is one of the show places of the district during the fruit season. Splendid crops of fruit are gathered annually. Mr. Miles intends to devote some attention to the cultivation of wheat, maize, and vegetables.

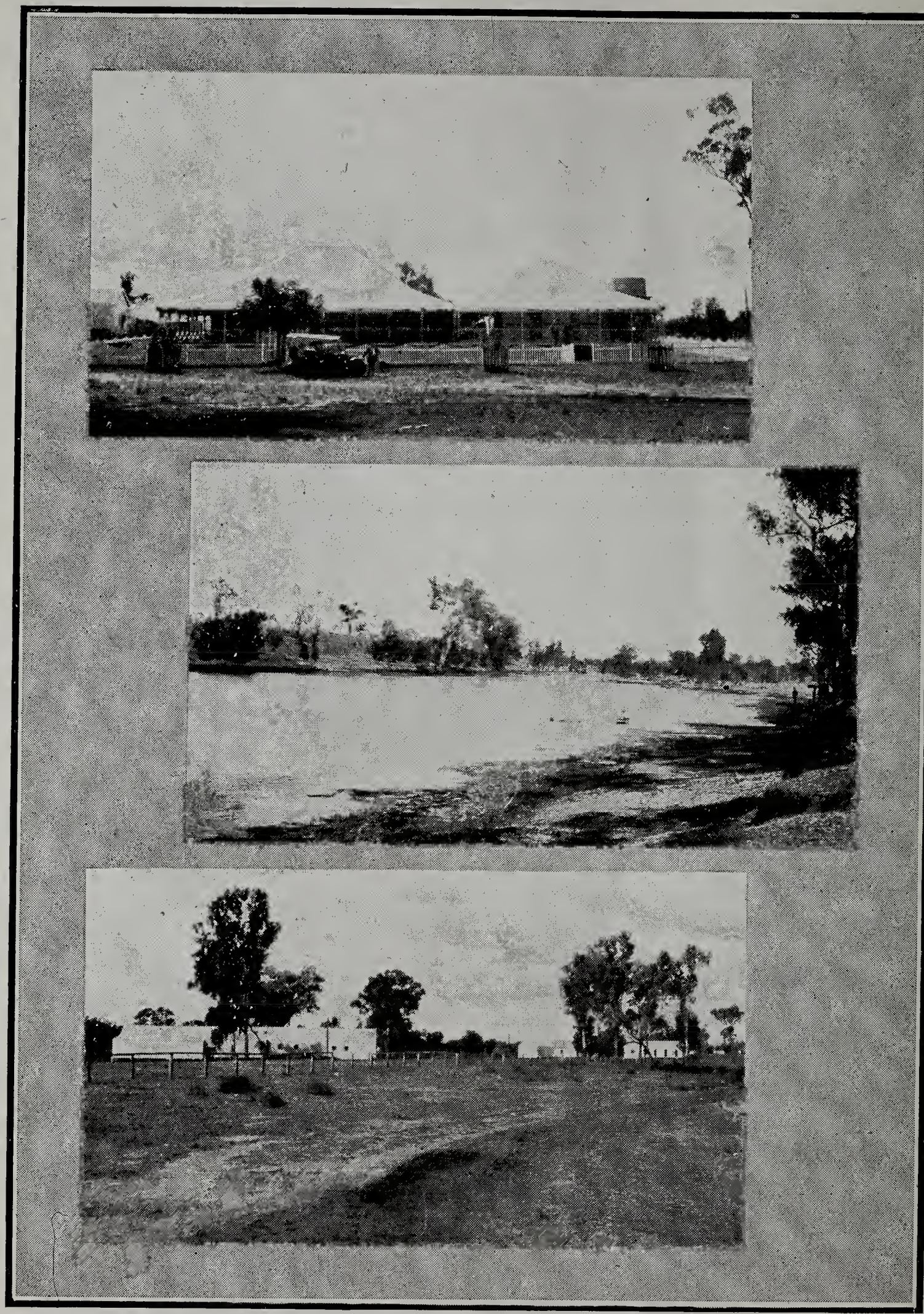
Mr. W. G. Crothers, of Moorenbah Grazing Farm, Dirranbandi, is one of the most successful graziers in the Maranoa District. The area of his holding is 40,000 acres, and he is also a shareholder in the Binda Pastoral Company in the Bollon district. He started operations nine years ago with £16 and 1,500 sheep—his share out of the estate of his father. He, however, obtained a loan from a financial institution, and selected a 20,000 acre block with 1,900 sheep on it. In the following year, he was enabled to clear his holding of the mortgage, and then acquired the adjoining block of 20,000 acres with 8,000 full-woolled sheep on it for £8,000. He then set to work clearing the properties. The country was ringbarked, and subdivided into paddocks. A number of excavated tanks were also made. Then he erected his present charming home, having previously lived in a very small house. There are few homesteads in Queensland more comfortably furnished to-day than

Moorenbah. It is lighted throughout with gas generated by air. All the buildings on the station are substantial and commodious, particularly the woolshed and shearers' quarters. The improvements entailed an expenditure of £7,000. Mr. Crothers was fortunate in starting operations under favourable meteorological conditions, the first four years being particularly good. The country is exceptionally well watered by Donegri Creek, and at the homestead there is a windmill for domestic purposes. He has also the use of a bore from a neighbouring station. The carrying capacity of the holding under favourable

McDowall Street, Roma, from Post Office corner.

conditions is one sheep to 2 acres. In 1914, he shore 26,000 sheep, and averaged 8½ lb. per sheep. He is a breeder of thoroughbreds for stock purposes; in fact, one of his horses (Prudent Lady) won the first £1,000 race for 2-year-olds run in Brisbane a couple of years ago. Mr. Crothers states that his first outlay on the holding amounted to £1,098 13s. 4d. (Full details are published under the heading of "Cost of Acquiring a Grazing Farm"). He intends to test the wheat-growing possibilities of the district at an early date.

Mr. P. Nolan, of Ashfield Farm, Mitchell, arrived in Queensland in 1864 with 5s. in his pocket. He first obtained employment as a shearer, then he undertook fencing contracts, and then became a carrier. Next he was foreman for sixteen years



1 *and* 3. *Woodlands Homestead and Woolshed, Mitchell District.*
2. *Balonne River, St. George.*

for the Shire Council. In 1886 he selected portion of his present area of 394 acres, and, after clearing it of the dense forest, put 7 acres under maize and imphee. In 1898 he had 30 acres under wheat, and obtained an average yield of 30 bushels to the acre. Every year he increased his area, and, in 1912, he averaged 24 bushels per acre from 60 acres of wheat. Portion of the crop yielded 36 bushels to the acre. He has now 90 acres cleared and ready for the plough. In 1914, 60 acres returned 15 bushels per acre. Mr. Nolan uses fertilisers freely on his farm. Though nearly 80 years of age, he works like a Trojan on his farm. He is happy and contented, and considers the district the best in Queensland.

Mr. H. C. Loughnan, of Rutland Estate, Mitchell, is one of the most successful pastoralists in the Maranoa District. He came to Mitchell about eight years ago from Walgett (New South Wales), where he had been sheep-raising since 1886. He was only 10 years of age when he arrived in Victoria from Cork (Ireland) in 1870. As a boy he was employed on a station, and received 6s. per week. Five years later he was paid 12s. 6d. per week. Then he was employed on another station at 17s. 6d. per week. When he was 20 years of age he proceeded to Walgett (New South Wales), and was engaged in droving until 1888. Then, together with his brother, he took up a grazing farm of 50,000 acres, and started sheep breeding. Later, he selected country near Hebel (Queensland), and eventually disposed of his New South Wales property. He had fair average luck on the whole, though he met with disaster from flood, fire, and drought at different periods. The holdings of Abbieglassie (202 square miles), Crystal Brook (158 square miles), and Rutland Estate (1,560 acres) and an occupation license (469 square miles), in the Mitchell district, were taken up later. On Abbieglassie there are 6,000 head of beef Shorthorns and 200 head of horses, and on Crystal Brook 9,000 beef Shorthorns and 70 horses. There are two artesian bores on Abbieglassie, and one artesian and three sub-artesian bores on Crystal Brook. Mr. Loughnan considers that Queensland is the best State in the Commonwealth. There is an air of comfort and plenty in every nook and corner of the homestead on Rutland Estate.

Mr. J. W. Westcott, of Sandford Grazing Farm, Mitchell, has been in the district for thirty-three years, and is one of the

most successful grazing farmers. The homestead, which is comfortable in every particular, is surrounded by 6,000 acres of freehold land. He has also Tyrone Grazing Farm, a freehold of 3,600 acres, in the Mungallala district. The properties are stocked with from 7,000 to 8,000 sheep, and 50 head of horses. The clip of wool averages annually about 8 lb. per sheep, and the lambings in 1914 aggregated 90 per cent. Mr. Westcott, who has a well-equipped woolshed and shearers' quarters, shears, by contract, all the sheep belonging to grazing farmers in the district for a radius of ten miles. He was one of the first to grow wheat in the district, and has been thus engaged since

School of Arts, Roma.

1900. For years he has had 150 acres under crop, and, in 1903, he averaged 24 bushels per acre. Oats has also been successfully grown. Top prices were realised in Brisbane for his clip and fat wethers. Mr. Westcott was only a youth when he arrived in Queensland from Devonshire (England) with only a few shillings in his pocket. For five years he did fencing in the Darling Downs and Maranoa districts. Then his father sent him £200, which enabled him, in 1887, to take up 160 acres of agricultural land from the Crown at 2s. 6d. per acre. He first started growing grapes, peaches, apricots, nectarines, figs, melons, potatoes, pumpkins, and vegetables, and did exceedingly well until the drought brought disaster. Recovering, he

acquired further areas, including Sandford, and stocked them with sheep. He has been prosperous ever since. The country is watered by the Maranoa River, wells, and tanks.

Mr. C. Leadbetter, of Almavale Farm, Mungallala, has an area of 640 acres, on which he is successfully dairying. He is one of the largest suppliers of cream to the Roma Butter Factory. Five years ago he was a stockman on one of the stations. He also did some fencing. When he started, he had little or no capital, but he had plenty of pluck and energy. Now he is in comfortable circumstances. In February, 1914, 30 cows earned £25, and in the two following months the same number earned £28. Berkshire and Middle York pigs are also bred.

Mr. M. Byrne, of Nalpa Downs Farm, Mungallala, has an area of 7,600 acres. He was formerly a stockman in the Moree district (New South Wales). Soon after his arrival in Queensland he invested £200 in a 900-acre farm in the Roma district, and paid 15s. per acre for it on easy terms. For six years he cultivated wheat, and obtained 28 bushels per acre from 150 acres on several occasions. Subsequently he sold out for £850, and took up an agricultural farm of 5,600 acres in the Mungallala district. This he stocked with 1,400 sheep, and had good luck from the beginning. At present he has a flock of 4,000. The weight of a fleece from a full-grown sheep averaged 8½ lb. The country is well watered by a sub-artesian bore, five dams, and a well. The homestead is commodious and comfortable. Under normal conditions it is claimed that the country will carry a sheep to the acre. The farm is sub-divided into seven paddocks. Mr. Byrne considers that Queensland is a long way ahead of New South Wales for grazing purposes.

Mr. D. A. Cameron, of Woodlands Station, on the Maranoa River, Mitchell district, has one of the finest homesteads in the State. It is fitted up with electric light, and is beautifully appointed both inside and outside. His holding aggregates 240,000 acres, and he has also Rookwood (75,000 acres), and Foyle View (52,000 acres). The holdings carry 60,000 sheep, 6,000 beef Shorthorns, and 250 saddle and draught horses. There are three large artesian bores, with an average depth of 2,500 ft., and the daily flows range from 500,000 gallons to 1,500,000 gallons. There are also several sub-artesian bores,

with an average depth of 300 ft., and a daily flow of 20,000 gallons. The average weight of his clip is 9 lb. per sheep, and he generally obtains top prices. Nine years ago he selected 15,000 acres with only a limited amount of capital. He, however, obtained assistance from a financial institution to stock up. Prior to settling on the land, he was a drover, and he managed to save sufficient money to start grazing sheep. From the outset, Mr. Cameron made headway, and, to-day, he is one of the most prosperous pastoralists in Queensland. He has demonstrated most conclusively what men with pluck, perseverance, and industry can do in the backblocks.

Mr. W. Brompton, of Richland Farm, Amby, though reared on a farm, followed a seafaring life for many years. Then he

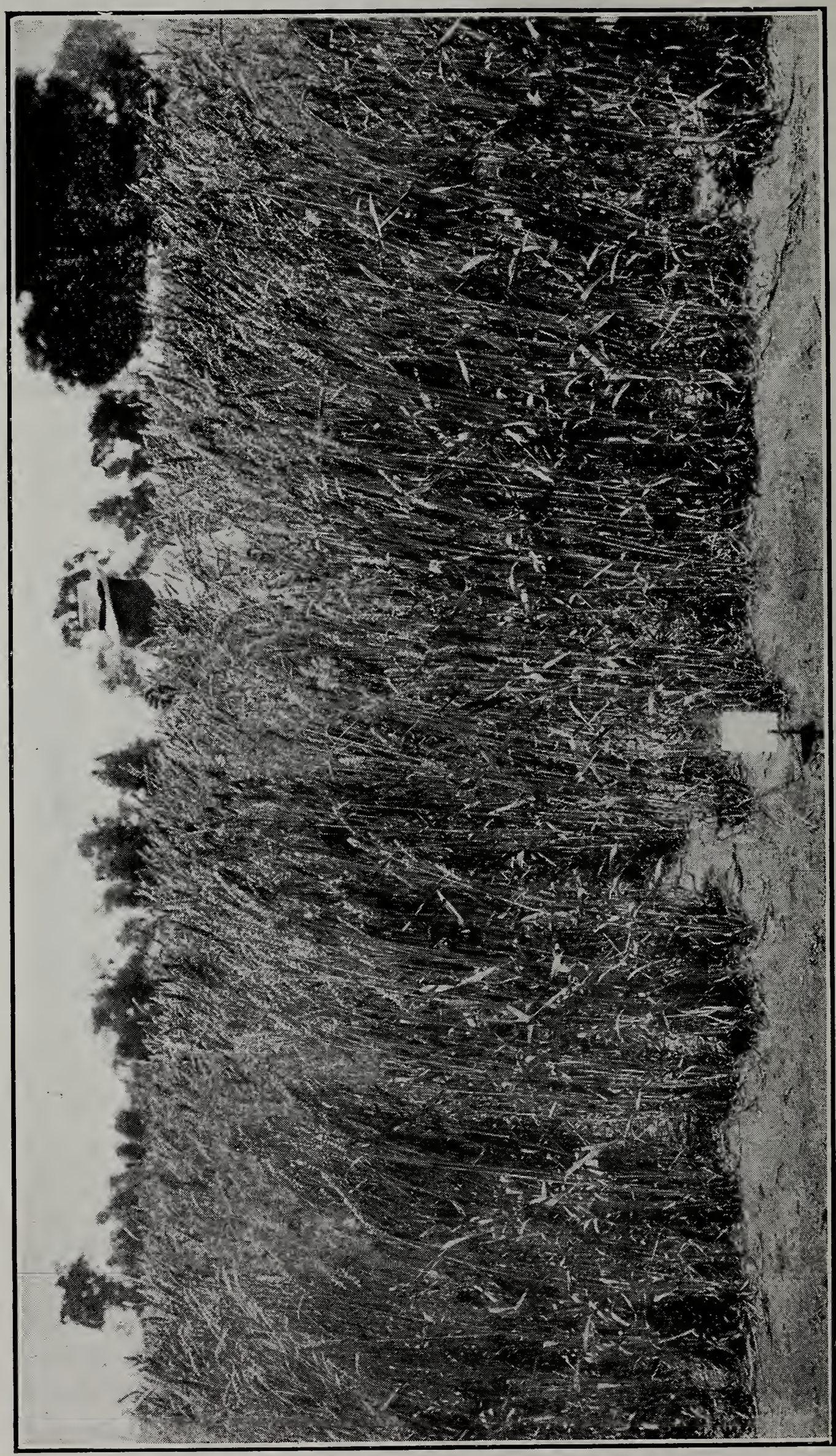
Concrete Silo on Mr. W. Brompton's Farm, Amby.

was employed on stations and on the railway line. Twenty-one years ago he settled in the Amby district, but prior to this he was associated with his brother at Hodgson (Roma) farming. He first took up 520 acres in Amby, for which he paid 10s. per acre on easy terms. This he cleared of prickly-pear, scrub, and boulders, and planted 5 acres of wheat, which yielded 16 bushels to the acre. Every year he increased his holding, and placed a larger acreage under wheat. For fourteen years he had 40 acres, and for five or six years 50 acres. His best yield for any one year was 22 bushels per acre, but occasionally small plots

returned 30 bushels per acre. For nine years a leased area of 110 acres, which he planted with wheat, gave 20 bushels to the acre. Small areas of maize were grown, and the best yield therefrom was 32 bushels per acre. In 1914, he grew maize, and used it for ensilage, a 67-ton concrete circular silo being used for this purpose. Pumpkins and cowpeas have also been grown successfully. From the beginning he has been dairying with grade Jerseys for his own requirements. The surplus butter was sold locally. Pigs are also bred for market. He has a family of five boys and four girls, the eldest being 20 years of age. For years he has been breeding sheep for market, and also for their wool. Mr. Brompton, who has made a thorough test of the possibilities of the soil and different varieties of wheat, considers that the district cannot be excelled for the successful growing of the staple agricultural product; in fact, he is a strong advocate for wheat-growing and sheep raising combined. He has 1,100 acres in his farm, portion of which is freehold.

Mr. W. J. Sullivan, of Turtle Grove Farm, Amby, is also a wheat-grower and sheep breeder, and is making a good living on his block of 3,000 acres. He has 1,700 sheep, 20 Jersey and Shorthorn cows, and a number of horses and pigs. For thirteen years he has been growing wheat. In 1913-4, he got 9 bushels to the acre from 60 acres. Portion of his flock are sold to the butcher every year.

Mr. O. Kinchington, of Revilo Grazing Farm, Mitchell, started with £100 and horses, wagons, &c., worth about £200. He came from Victoria in 1883, and followed the occupation of contractor for fencing, dam-making, &c., for several stations until 1895. Then he took up a prickly-pear selection of 1,280 acres, and after clearing and fencing it, and erecting a home, he put in 50 acres of wheat. Within ten years he had 200 acres of wheat, which yielded 13 bushels per acre. In 1903, however, he had 400 acres of wheat, which averaged 20 bushels per acre. Some of the plots yielded as high as 26 bushels per acre. Sheep-raising engaged his attention from the start, his first flock numbering 1,500. This was soon increased to 3,700, but the big drought reduced the number to 700. He has now 9,000 sheep, 50 head of saddle and draught horses, 100 beef Shorthorns, and a



Crop of Bunge No. 1 Wheat, Bungeworgorai State Farm, Roma.

few pigs. Years ago he bred pigs on a large scale, and had as many as 300 at a time. He considers that the district is admirably adapted for wheat-growing on a large scale. In point of fact, his wheat crop, Mr. Kinchington stated, saved him from ruin when his sheep failed. His holding aggregates 23,000 acres,

Date Tree in Fruit at Mr. Jas. Simmons' Home, Roma.

3,400 acres of which is freehold. The normal carrying capacity of the country is one sheep to the acre. He has a splendidly-equipped woolshed, and does a good deal of shearing for neighbouring selectors by contract every year. The average weight of a fleece from a full-grown wether is 9 lb., and that of a ewe 7 lb.

Mr. George Maller, of Alston Farm, Wallumbilla, was previously growing wheat at Pickanjinnie for thirteen years. There he had 80 acres under wheat, which yielded 16 bushels to the acre. Since his arrival in Wallumbilla he has been one of the largest suppliers of cream to the Roma factory. Usually he milks fifteen grade Shorthorns, Ayrshires, and Illawarras daily. The best return per cow was 27s. 6d. per month, while the average was about 20s. The milkers are fed on natural grasses. He buys young pigs, fattens them, and then sells to the butcher.

Mr. J. R. Hornick, Wallumbilla, came to the district with his parents twenty-five years ago from the Riverina district (New South Wales). He worked on his father's farm until 1907, when he selected 600 acres from the Crown at from 2s. 6d. to 10s. per acre. In 1914, he had 115 acres under wheat, which yielded 900 bushels. Some years ago 20 acres of maize returned 16 bushels per acre. He has 2½ acres under oranges, peaches, plums, figs, grapes, apples, pears, nectarines, and apricots, and has 12 acres of Rhodes grass. Mr. Hornick is a breeder of beef cattle on a small scale. He started with limited capital, but this did not prevent him from making a profit of £2,500 since he commenced farming.

Mr. W. A. Maller, of Bore View Farm, Pickanjinnie, has 2,200 acres, of which 800 acres are freehold. He has been twenty-two years in the district, and has been growing wheat until four years ago. In 1903, 200 acres of wheat averaged 28 bushels per acre. For the past six years he has been dairying. In February last his cream cheque from 55 cows was £50. In May last he was milking 20 cows. The herd consists of grade Shorthorns and Ayrshires. He has a pit silo, and intended erecting a galvanised iron circular one. Pear, sunflower, sorghum, and cowpea are used for the making of ensilage. A 14 disc plough, driven by a traction engine, is used on the farm.

Messrs. Roebig Bros., of Kia Ora Farm, Pickanjinnie, were formerly wool-classers. Five years ago they selected 640 acres of prickly-pear country at 10s. per acre. During the first year 5 acres were cleared, and planted with wheat. The next year 2 acres were cleared, and put under lucerne, which yielded three or four crops in the year. In 1914, they had 9 acres of wheat,

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

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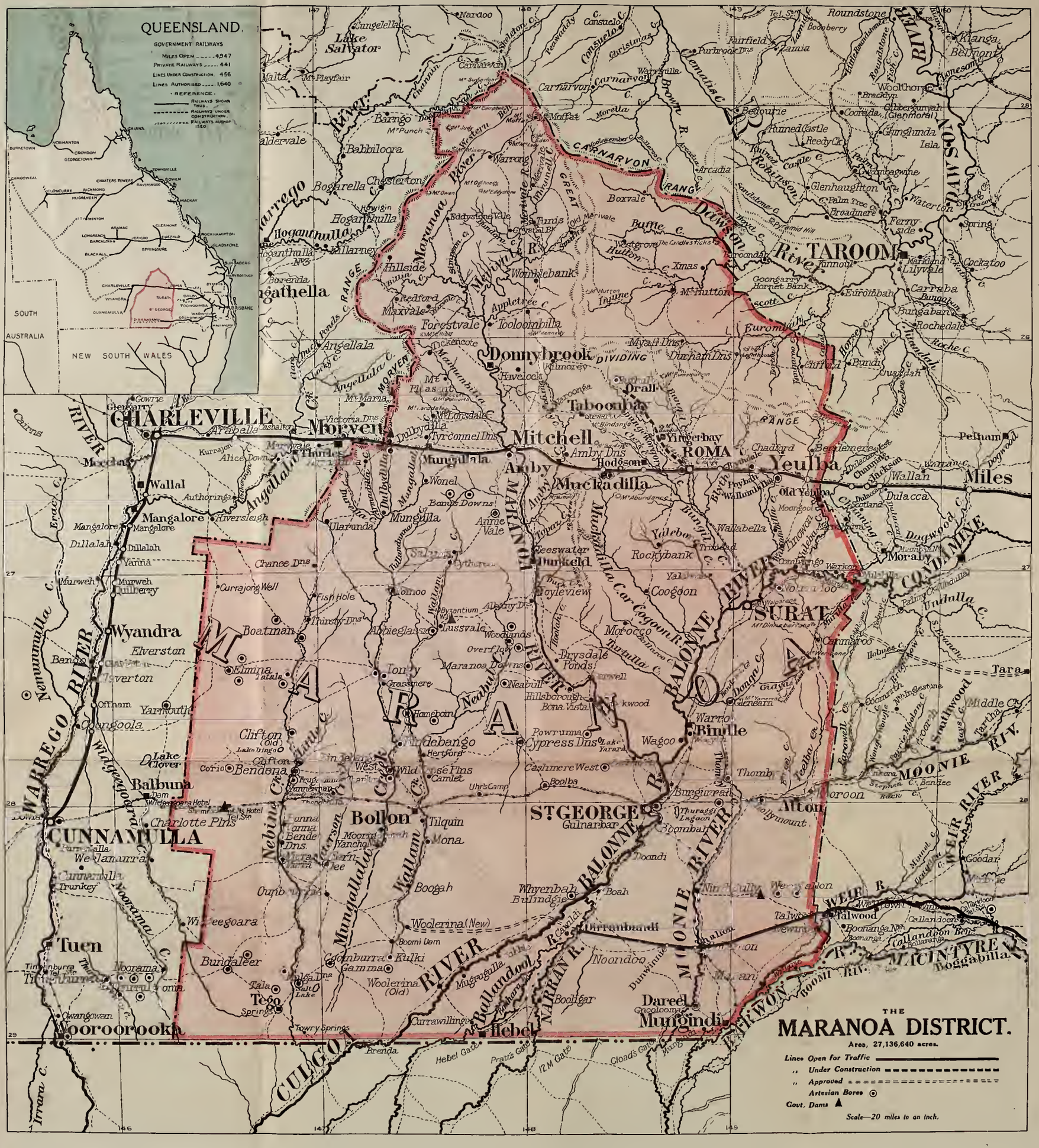
QUEENSLAND.
GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS
Miles Open 4,947
Private Railways 441
Lines under Construction 456
Lines Authorised 1,640
REFERENCE.
Railways shown thus.
Railways under construction.
Railways authorised 1560
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
NEW SOUTH WALES
THE
MARANOA DISTRICT.
Area, 27,136,640 acres.
Lines Open for Traffic
Under Construction
Approved
Artesian Bores
Govt. Dams
Scale—20 miles to an inch.
CHARLEVILLE
Morven
Mitchell
Donnybrook
Taboonba
ROMA
Yeulba
Miles
Mungallala
Amby
Mackadilla
Wallal
Mangalore
Dillalah
Yanna
Murweh
Quilberry
Currajong Well
Chance Dns
Fish Hole
Thirsty Dns
Wyandra
Boatman
Elverston
Elmina
Yarmouth
Clifton (Old)
Lake Clover
Bendena
Balbuna
Charlotte Plns
CUNNAMULLA
Tuen
Bundaleer
Tego
Woorooroka
Bollon
Tilquin
Mona
Boogah
Woolerina (New)
Kulki
Woolerina (Old)
Goombura
Gamma
Mungallala Ck.
Nebine Ck.
Wallam Ck.
Hebel
Currawillinga
Towry Springs
Brenda
Hebel Gate
Pratts Gate
12 M Gate
Cloads Gate
Mungindi
Dareel
Noondoo
Dunwinnie
Boolgar
Talwood
Callandoon
Boomi R.
Goodar
Weir R.
Moonie R.
Macintyre
Boggabilla
ST GEORGE
Gulnarbar
Bombah
Thuraggi Lagoon
Burrunbandi
Whyenbah
Bulmdgie
Boah
Doondi
Wagoo
Binnie
Cypress Dns
Powruma
Cashmere West
Boolba
Uhr's Camp
Hillsborough
Bona Vista
Neabul
Maranoa Downs
Brysdale Ponds
Morocco
Coogon
Rockybank
Yaleba
Wallabella
Dunkeld
Goyleview
Coogoon
Surat
Carnarvon
Warroo
Bindle
Alton
Thomb
Burgurrah
Tara
Middle Ck.
Moonie Riv.
Weir River
Balonne River
Maranoa River
Warrego River
Nebine Ck.
Wallam Ck.
Mungallala Ck.
Kallam Ck.
Narran R.
Ballandool R.
Culgoa
Irrara C.
Nowmmalla C.
Widgeegoara
Coongoola
Offham
Yamma
Wee Jamurra
Trunkey
Cunnamulla
Wallam Ck.
Nebine Ck.
Mungallala Ck.
Kallam Ck.
Carson Ck.
Maranoa River
Warrego River
Balonne River
Moonie River
Weir River
Culgoa
Narran R.
Ballandool R.
Boomi R.
Macintyre
Boggabilla
Callandoon
Talwood
Goodar
Tara
Middle Ck.
Moonie Riv.
Smithwood
Tarcha
Boonanga
Callandoon Bore
Mungindi
Dareel
Hebel
Currawillinga
Towry Springs
Brenda
Hebel Gate
Pratts Gate
12 M Gate
Cloads Gate
Noondoo
Dunwinnie
Boolgar
Mugragulla
Kulki
Goombura
Gamma
Woolerina (Old)
Tala
Tego Springs
Owangowan
Yoorama
Timbunburra
Tuen
Wee Jamurra
Trunkey
Cunnamulla
Balbuna
Dam
Widgeegoara Hotel
Tel. Stn
Charlotte Plns
Offham
Yarmouth
Coongoola
Elverston
Boatman
Wyandra
Elmina
Clifton (Old)
Lake Clover
Bendena
Clifton
Hertford
Wild Rose Plns
Camlet
Tony
Grassmere
Maranoa Downs
Neabul
Hillsborough
Bona Vista
Brysdale Ponds
Morocco
Coogon
Rockybank
Yaleba
Wallabella
Dunkeld
Goyleview
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Narran R.
Ballandool R.
Culgoa
Irrara C.
Nowmmalla C.
Widgeegoara
Coongoola
Offham
Yamma

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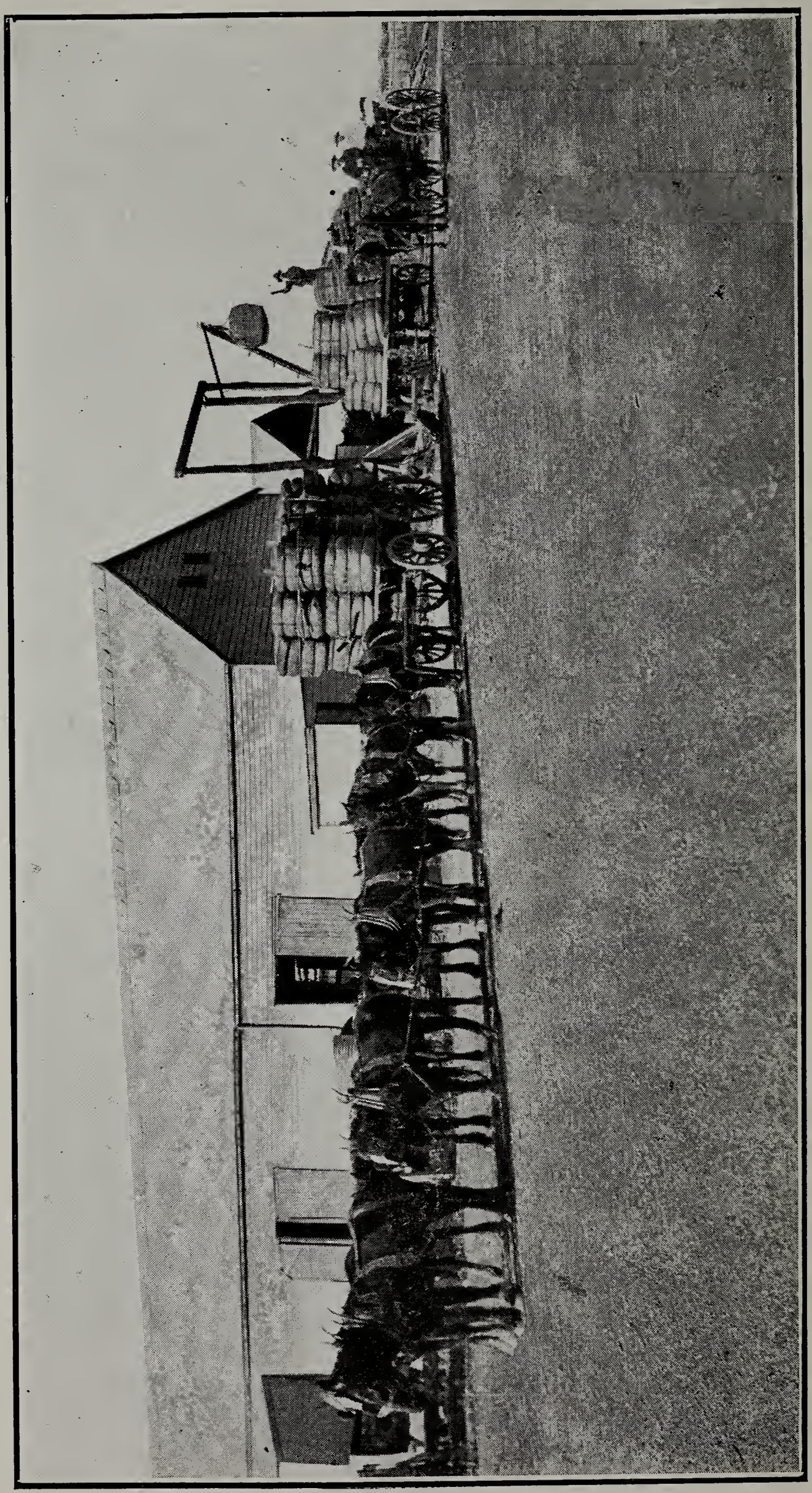
which was cut for hay. At present they have 60 acres of dense scrub and prickly-pear cleared ready for the plough. There are 40 acres under Rhodes grass, which was, at the time, about 6 ft. high. These artificially grassed paddocks carry two beasts to the acre. Until quite recently they have been dairying, and received £22 for the cream from 16 cows. Around the newly-erected home, there are 1½ acres of peaches, grapes, apricots, plums (English and Japanese), nectarines, and figs. Herefords

Roman Catholic Convent School, Roma.

and pigs are also bred. Messrs. Roebig manufacture a very effective poisonous powder for the eradication of prickly-pear. Many of the large stations use it with good results.

Mr. O. J. Finnigan, Wallumbilla, has 1,300 acres, portion of which is infested with prickly-pear. Previously he was a butcher, and started farming with £35. At first he selected a homestead area of 222 acres at 2s. 6d. per acre. Having improved and cleared it, he undertook contracts for fencing and road clearing. Then he purchased an agricultural farm of 160 acres for £60. Five years later he cultivated 40 acres of wheat, and obtained 16 bushels per acre. In 1904, he had 150 acres of wheat, which yielded 12 bushels per acre; and, in 1914, 40 acres returned 7 bushels per acre. He has been dairying for about six years. The cheque for cream from 28 cows in



Loading Wool at Mount Abundance Station Woolshed, Roma.

September, 1914, was £37. The milkers were fed on green wheat. The milking herd of grade Shorthorns numbers 50, and he has also 100 beef Shorthorns. The total receipts for cream in 1913 were £240, and, in 1914, £170.

Mr. Isaac Giddins, of Rayburn Farm, Yeulba, arrived in the district from the Hawkesbury River district (New South Wales) in 1879 as a lad. He was employed on stations for several years, and then he selected 160 acres from the Crown, but he had only enough money to pay the first year's rent and survey fees. A loan was obtained from the State Agricultural Bank, and this enabled him to effect improvements and buy stock. Thirty acres were planted with wheat later, and the crop, which was 7 ft. 2in. high, yielded 32 bushels to the acre. Had it been harvested with a reaper and binder instead of a stripper, Mr. Giddins contends that he would have got 60 bushels per acre. The area of his country was increased until he had 640 acres, and about 6 years ago he had 140 acres under wheat. Eight years ago he went in for dairying, and selected grade Shorthorns and Ayrshires for this purpose. The best monthly return for cream from 26 cows was £22. Fruit-growing, poultry-raising, and bee-farming also engaged his attention. The honey was sold locally. Mr. Giddins disposed of Forest Farm about eighteen months ago, and acquired a prickly-pear area of 1,895 acres from the Crown free of charge, with the proviso that it was cleared of the pest within the stated period. He has erected a comfortable home, and has about 1 acre under all kinds of fruits and vegetables. The crops are irrigated by means of water pumped from Yeulba Creek.

Mr. John Ryan, of Wingfield Farm, Yeulba, is very comfortably situated. He came to the district in 1880 with his father, and obtained employment as a butcher boy. His father selected an agricultural homestead of 640 acres at 20s. per acre, and started dairying with Shorthorns. Later more land was taken up until he had 3,000 acres. Mixed farming—wheat-growing, dairying, and sheep-raising—was then engaged in for a number of years. In 1903, he had 25 acres under wheat, which yielded about 28 bushels per acre. A 10 acre plot returned 40 bushels per acre. In 1906, the wheat area was 120 acres, and the average yield 12 bushels per acre; and, in 1909, there were

100 acres, which produced 9 bushels per acre. For some years past Mr. John Ryan has been a part owner of the farm with his mother. All their attention now is devoted to breeding sheep (with a Shropshire cross for lamb export), beef cattle, and horses. They have 300 sheep, a like number of cattle, and 50 horses.

Mr. Samuel York, Wallumbilla, came from England twenty-five years ago with very little spare cash. He was first employed in a butchery in Ipswich for many years. Then he came to Wallumbilla, and selected 160 acres. This he cleared, and then went in for dairying on a small scale. He also worked on neighbouring farms. About sixteen years ago he started

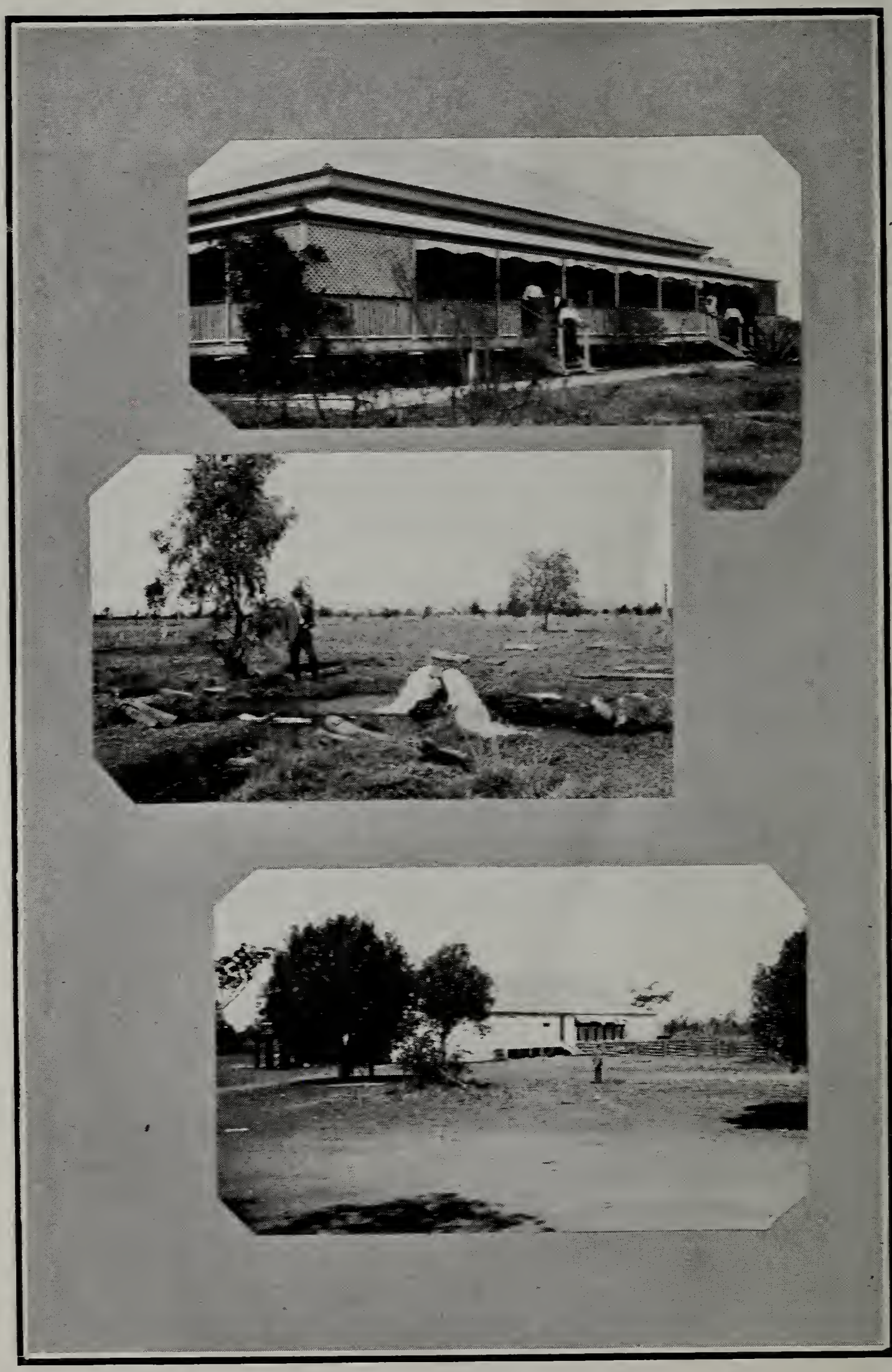
Dirranbandi Railway Station.

wheat growing, and to-day he is one of the largest growers. His farm comprises 1,300 acres, for which he paid the Crown from 2s. 6d. to 10s. per acre. In 1910, he had 100 acres, yield per acre 18 bushels; 1911, 100 acres, yield per acre 9 bushels; 1912, 100 acres, yield per acre 3 bushels; 1913, 100 acres, yield per acre 9 bushels; 1914, 130 acres, yield per acre 9 bushels. Maize is also grown annually. From 10 acres he obtained an average of 36 bushels to the acre. Usually he plants 20 acres, and gets about 12 bushels per acre. Two acres of vegetables are raised annually for market. He has a small dairy herd, and sends his cream to the Roma factory. The young stock are fattened for the butcher.

Mr. Arthur McCutcheon, of Lanhydrock Farm, Wallumbilla, was previously in the British Navy. When he arrived in Australia from Plymouth (England) he had £2 in his pocket. He worked for a couple of years on stations in New South Wales, and then came to Queensland in 1890. For fifteen years he followed the occupation of a shearer. In 1893, however, he selected 160 acres in Wallumbilla, and improved and cleared it in the off season. About seven years ago he gave up shearing, and turned his whole attention to farming. In 1903, he had 40 acres of wheat, and got 30 bushels per acre. He increased the area of his farm every year, and also went in more extensively for wheat cultivation. In 1910, he had 265 acres of wheat, and

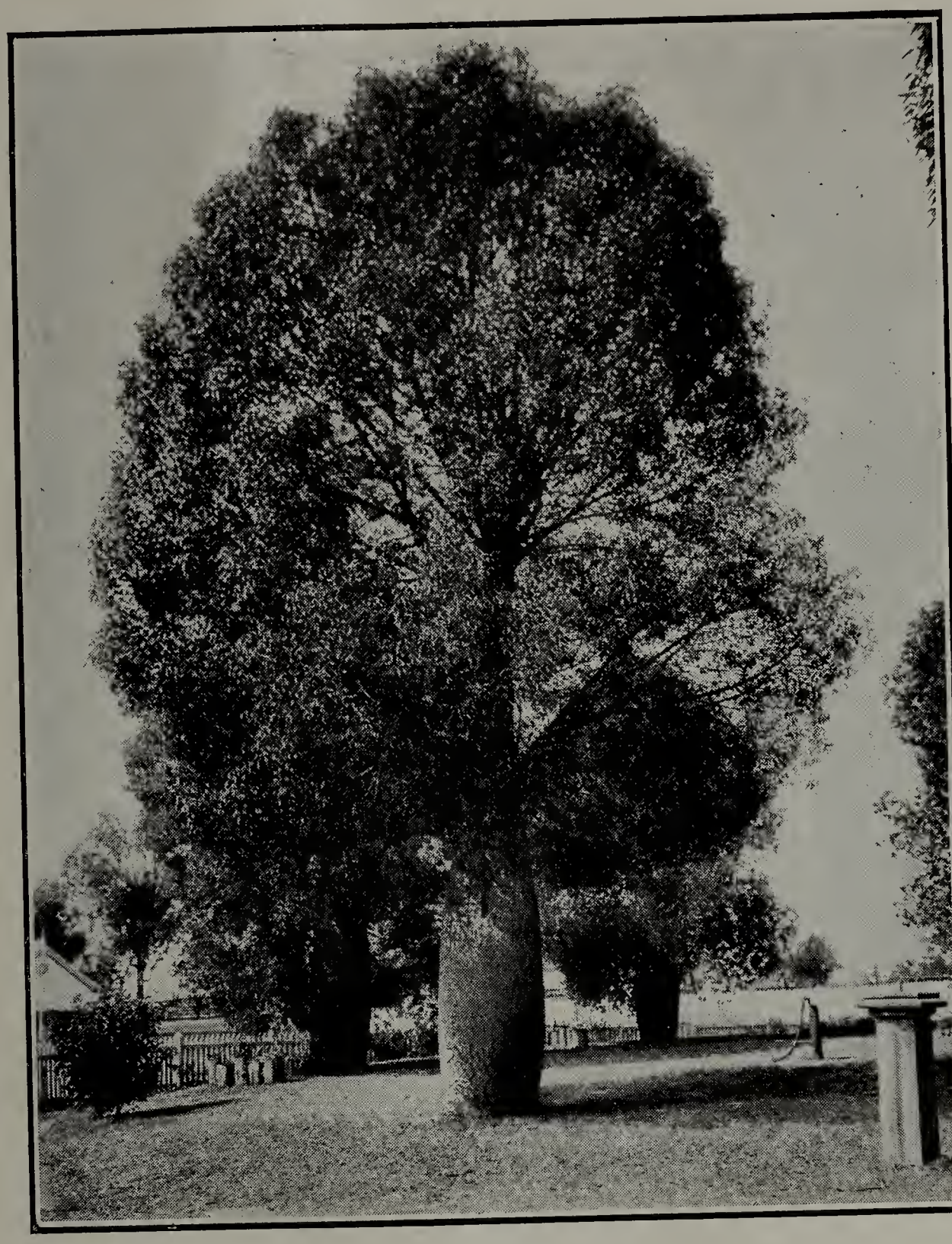
Cottage Hospital, Mitchell.

obtained 3,900 bushels; in 1911, 400 acres, 3,300 bushels; 1912, 400 acres, 3,000 bushels; 1913, 80 acres were grazed off by stock; 1914, 50 acres (10 acres cut for hay, and the balance yielded 318 bushels). Mr. McCutcheon has now 2,120 acres in his farm, of which 1,600 acres are freehold. For the past eight years he has grown maize successfully. Usually he has 40 acres under this crop. In 1914, 18 acres yielded 38 bushels per acre. For the past three years he has been dairying with grade Shorthorns and Jerseys, crossed with an Ayrshire bull. In August, 1914, 55 cows produced cream valued at £47, and 15 cows in July of the same year averaged 33s. per head per month. The herd numbers 200 head. Milking machines are



Scenes on Thuraggi Station, St. George.
1. *Homestead.* 2. *Artesian Bore.* 3. *Woolshed.*

used in the well-equipped dairy. Berkshire and Middle York pigs are bred for market. There is a stack silo on the farm, with a capacity of 130 tons. The ensilage is made from maize, panicum, and Japanese millet.



Giant Bottle Tree on Mount Abundance Station, Roma District.

Other settlers, who started with limited capital, and are now in comfortable circumstances:—Messrs. John Bates, Wilga Farm, Northern road, Roma, dairyman and wheat-grower, started with £130; Joseph Tuche, Sawmill Farm, Cattle Creek,

Roma, dairyman and wheat-grower, started with £43; Mrs. P. Smith, Sunnyvale Vineyard, Northern road, Roma, vigneron, wheat-grower, and dairying; C. W. T. Shefe, Orange Hill, Northern road, Roma, wheat and fruit grower, and dairyman; George Hadley, Woodbine Farm, Durham Downs road, Roma (Victorian), wheat-grower, dairyman, and sheep farmer; James Moran, Mitchell, market gardener, crops raised by irrigation; A. Chisholm, Silver Glade Farm, Mitchell, wheat-grower; T.

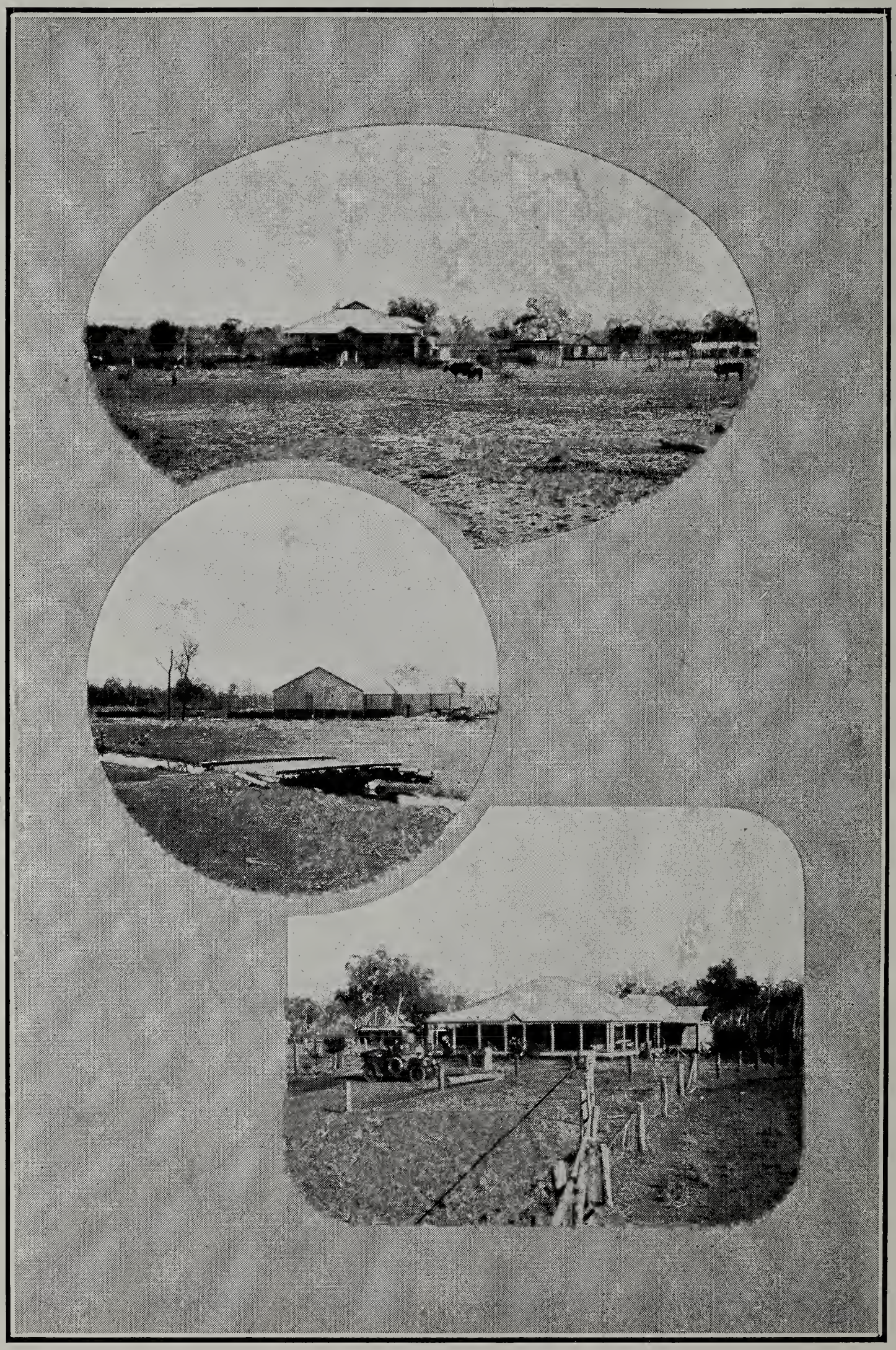
Railway Department's Dam, Roma.

Shannon, Mitchell, wheat-grower and stock-breeder; M. Sorensen, Allison Vale, Mungallala, wheat and maize growing and dairying, feeding stock on boiled prickly-pear, came from Denmark with only a few pounds in cash; E. J. Simcoe, Albion Park Farm, Womalilla, Mitchell district, formerly brickmaker in Orange (New South Wales), had only a few pounds left after paying first year's rent, growing wheat, all kinds of fruits and vegetables, and dairying, has small flock of sheep, considers district better for mixed farming than Orange; A. Irwin, senr., Auribah Farm, Mungallala, came from New England district (New South Wales) five years ago with about £400, doing well as dairyman, milks from 15 to 20 cows daily on an average, best cheque from 25 cows was £25; H. McLaughlan, Yeulba, successful wheat, maize, lucerne, and fruit grower, and

dairyman, previously a lengthsman on the line; M. Murphy, Yeulba, wheat-grower and vigneron, and breeder of beef Shorthorns, formerly a carrier; W. Judd, Yeulba, breeder of beef Shorthorns; R. E. Nimmo, Orchard Villa, Wallumbilla, wheat, maize, panicum, and fruit grower, and dairyman, has a stack silo, milks from 30 to 40 grade Jerseys and Shorthorns daily, best cheque for cream £29, also a breeder of Herefords and pigs, had 100 acres under wheat two years ago; F. Rubatto, Top Hill Farm, Wallumbilla, wheat, maize, and fruit grower, and dairyman, cultivates from 100 to 110 acres of wheat, best yield per acre 20 bushels; S. Yeo and J. Harvey, of Wallumbilla, are each sucessfully raising lambs for market; George Wells, Pickanjinnie, formerly a fettler on the railway line, has been growing wheat for twenty years, had 300 acres under wheat in

General View of Bungeworgorai State Farm, Roma.

1903 and 160 acres in 1914, got 18 bushels per acre, dairying for seven years, best return per month for each cow 20s., also bee-farming and sells honey locally; Joseph Hoffman, Hope Farm, Pickanjinnie, formerly carter in South Australia, has been mixed farming for years, had 200 acres of wheat in 1914 and obtained 1,350 bushels, has a herd of 150 milking Shorthorns, the cream from 30 cows realised £23, also has 130 crossbred merinos.



1 *and* 2. *Bonus Downs Homestead and Woolshed, Mitchell District.*
3. *Eversfield Homestead, Mungallala District.*

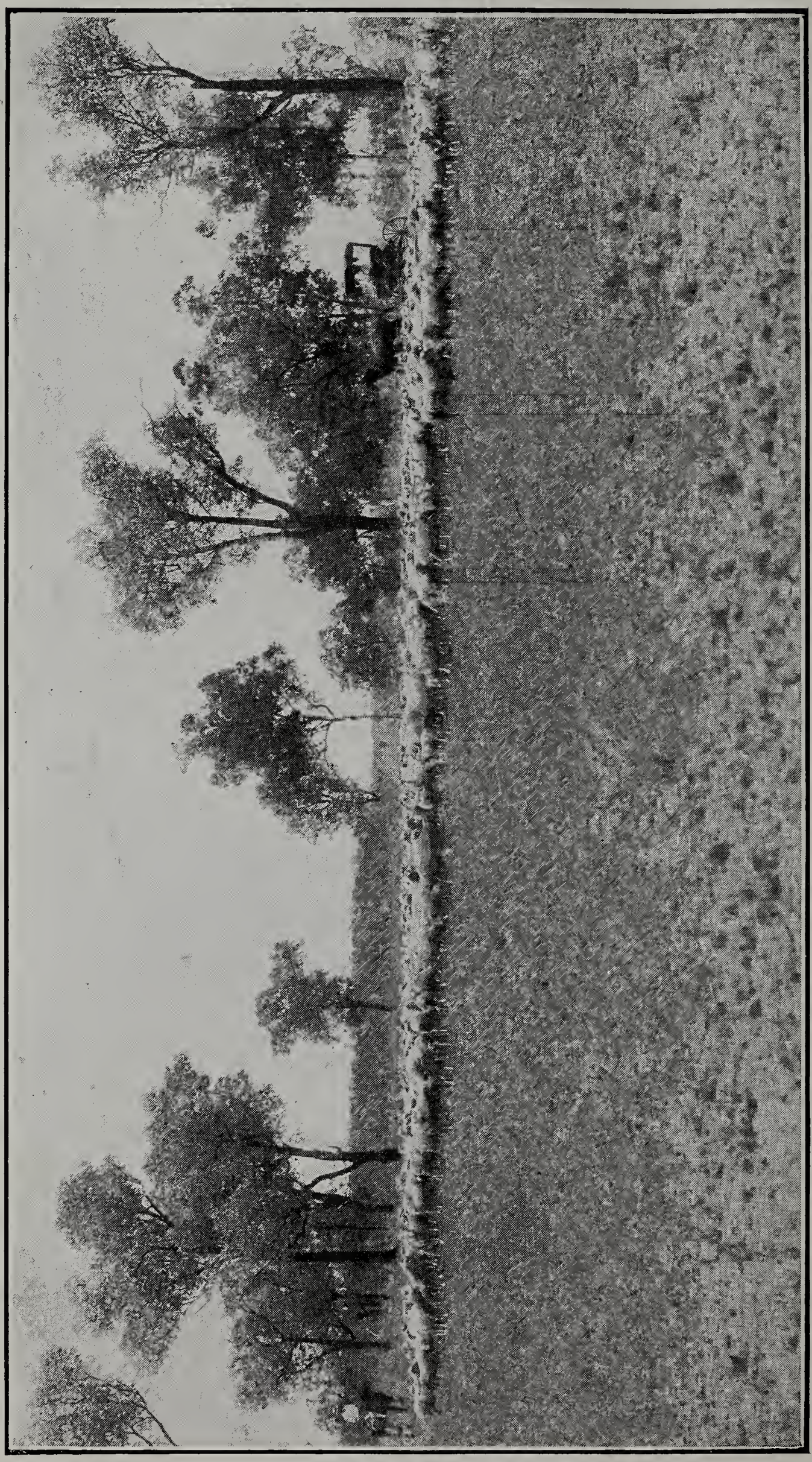
STATE ASSISTANCE TO SETTLERS.

The Government issues to the intending settler desirous of inspecting Crown lands, with a view to selecting an area not greater than 5,120 acres, a railway ticket from the railway station in Queensland nearest to his home at half the ordinary fare. If the intending settler subsequently selects a selection subject to personal residence conditions, and not exceeding 5,120 acres in area, the half-fare paid by him is refunded, and his family, self, ordinary household furniture and effects, agricultural implements, seed, one dray, and one set of harness, are carried free to the railway station nearest to his selection. The maximum area mentioned above is only available in remote districts.

Roman Catholic Convent, Roma.

The man on the land is also assisted to improve his homestead. Since the inauguration of the State Agricultural Bank in 1902, the loans to the end of June, 1915, were as follows:—Advances approved £416,190; instalments paid £296,396; total advances to date, £1,147,996; total advances approved, £1,669,736.

Under "The Agricultural Bank Acts Amendment Act of 1911-14-15," advances are made to settlers at the rate of 13s. 4d. in the £1 on the value of the land and improvements thereon up to £200 for unspecified purposes. Advances (not exceeding £800) are also made for any of the following purposes:—Erection of



Flock of Sheep on Mount Abundance Station, Roma District.

buildings, ringbarking, clearing, fencing, draining, or water conservation, payment of liabilities existing on the holding, purchase of stock, machinery, implements, &c. Interest at the rate of 5 per cent. is charged, and repayment of the loan must be made in two half-yearly instalments of £4 0s. 3d. each on every £100 borrowed. The advances are made on freehold land, agricultural homesteads, agricultural farms, grazing farms or homesteads, unconditional selections, prickly-pear selections, goldfield homesteads, free homesteads, and land acquired under perpetual lease conditions.

ERECTION OF WORKERS' HOMES BY THE STATE.

The Workers' Dwellings Act of 1909 and Amendment Act of 1912, which has been so much availed of since its introduction, provides a means of enabling persons under certain conditions to obtain their own homes by an easy process of repayment. The maximum sum that can be borrowed is £300, at the rate of 75 per cent. of the total security; the borrowed amount is repayable at the rate of 13s. 3d. per month per £100 for twenty years. The interest is charged only on the monthly balance. The land must be freehold, and the applicant must not possess any other dwelling in Queensland or elsewhere, or his salary must not be over £200.

To 30th June, 1915, 5,014 dwellings under the above Act have been erected, the monetary advances aggregating £1,288,074.

Quite a number of dwellings have been erected in the Maranoa District under the provisions of the above Act.

LAND AVAILABLE FOR SELECTION IN THE MARANOA DISTRICT.

There is room for tens of thousands of new settlers in the Maranoa District. A careful perusal of the preceding pages of this book will enlighten the reader of the varied character of its resources and its unlimited possibilities. With a view of promoting close settlement, the Government has resumed a large number of the large pastoral areas, and these will shortly be cut up into suitable blocks for settlers with limited capital for grazing and agricultural purposes on easy terms and conditions. The majority of the areas to be thrown open for selection are within reasonable distance of the railway.

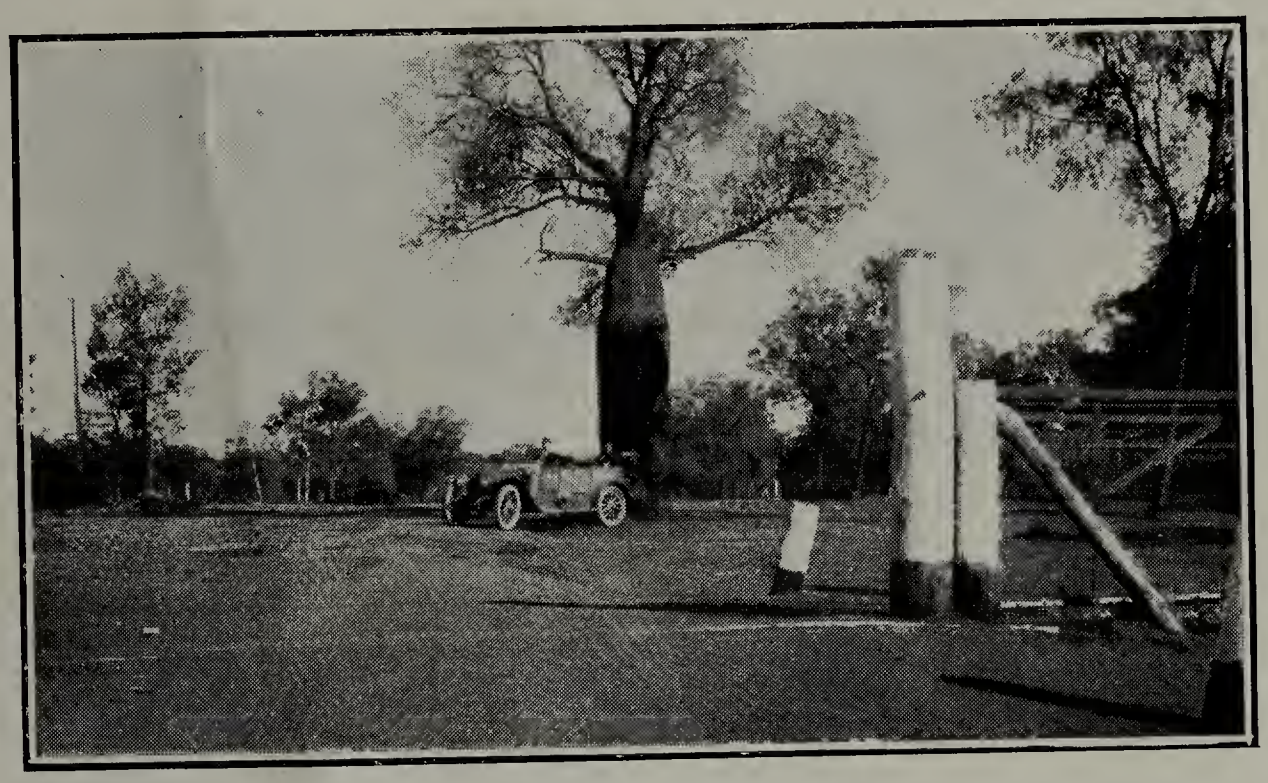
The following areas will be available for selection within the next few months as either agricultural or grazing farms, perpetual leases, or prickly-pear selections:—Bullamon run, 154 square miles, at Thallon, in blocks of from 810 to 1,440 acres, red and grey soils, watered by Moonie River, half infested with light prickly-pear; Waroonga run, 102 square miles, near Mitchell, in blocks of from 760 to 2,560 acres, sandy loam and black soils, watered by Amby, Peg Leg, and Burgagay Creeks, and dams and tanks; Amby Downs run, 20 square miles, near Amby railway station, in blocks of from 1,030 to 2,270 acres,

Vineyard on the Northern Road, Roma.

sandy loam, and black and red soils, watered by Burgagay and Taboonbay Creeks; Cypress Downs run, 625 square miles, in the Bollon district, in blocks of from 11,800 to 29,000 acres, mostly black soil, watered by four artesian bores; Mount Abundance run, 39 square miles, near Muckadilla railway station, in blocks of from 2,933 to 6,330 acres, brown and red chocolate soils, watered by Muckadilla Creek; Merivale and Merivale West runs, 212 square miles, in the Mitchell district, in blocks up to 10,000 acres, sandy loam, black, and chocolate soils, watered by Merivale River, Clyde, Spring, and Sandy Creeks; Ularunda run, 132 square miles, near Morven, in blocks of from 16,500 to 25,600 acres, red and brown soils, watered by Durella Creek, three tanks, and two sub-artesian bores;

Clifford and Emu runs, 44,800 acres, near Yeulba, in blocks of 2,560 acres, sandy loam and red chocolate soils, watered by Kangaroo Creek.

Further list of run resumptions to be opened for selection as grazing and agricultural farms at an early date:—Myall Downs (48 square miles), Euthulla (76 square miles), and Mount Hutton (250 square miles), Roma district; Surprise (11 square miles), Morocco (16 square miles), The Triangle (9 square miles), Collingwood (10 square miles), Napier (18 square miles), Weribone (19 square miles), and Noorindoo ($2\frac{3}{8}$ square miles), Surat district; Whyenbah South (43 square miles), Tate



Historic Bottle Tree near Rabbit Board's Gates, Mitchell.

(34 square miles), Tilquin (69 square miles), Vincentia (43 square miles), Newinga (20 square miles), Brenda (15 square miles), Currawillinghi (24 square miles), Mugrugulla (10 square miles), Wilky (20 square miles), Grassmere South (19 square miles), Burgurrah (23 square miles), Mona (120 square miles), and Whyenbah (205 square miles), St. George district; Eurella (8 square miles), Muckadilla district; Noogilla (78 square miles), Hillsborough (22 square miles), The Overflow (20 square miles), Kilmorey (41 square miles), Southlands (19 square miles), Mitchell district; Moongool (37 square miles), Yeulba district.

The rentals for the grazing farms will range from $\frac{1}{2}$d. to 3d. per acre. The respective rentals and purchasing prices for the perpetual leases and agricultural farms have not been fixed yet.

The area of land selected in the Roma Land Agent's district during 1914 was as under:—13 agricultural farms, 10,617 acres; 22 grazing farms, 248,114 acres; 13 grazing homesteads, 87,944 acres; 2 agricultural homesteads, 480 acres; 2 unconditional selections, 2,537 acres; 129 prickly-pear selections, 131,062 acres; total selectors, 181; total area selected 480,754 acres. There are still over 10,000,000 acres under pastoral lease in the Maranoa District.

QUEENSLAND'S GOLDEN PROSPECTS.

Speaking at a banquet to Mr. James A. Robertson, the Queensland Trade Commissioner at the Panama Exposition, on September 15th last, prior to his departure:—Commissioner Nielsen said they were met that day to wish Mr. Robertson good fortune on his departure from San Francisco. Mr. Robertson represented Queensland, the third largest State of the Commonwealth of Australia. That State he (Mr. Nielsen) knew intimately. The natural resources of Queensland were enormous. Its pastoral interests were extensive, and its extent of agricultural land was greater than the whole area of his own State of New South Wales. That he ascertained when he (Mr. Nielsen) was Minister of Lands in New South Wales. At that time he ordered a survey of such lands of New South Wales, and at his suggestion the area of the agricultural land of the sister State of Queensland was undertaken. The gold fields of Queensland were among the most valuable of Australia at the present time, and they occupied a high place as among the great gold producers of the world. The State of Queensland, with its wealth and natural resources, was still more fortunate in the men who represented it. The Queensland qualities were synonymous with those of men of high principles, and wide liberal mind, and of those attributes Mr. Robertson was representative.

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Note.—Full information in regard to the resources, &c., of Queensland will be found in the 1915 edition of "Pocket Queensland."

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